

Harper's BAZAAR

INTERIORS

SPRING'S
ECLECTIC
STYLE
UPDATE

ON TREND
MODERN
KITCHENS &
BESPOKE
BATHROOMS

Plus
DESIGN
DAYS
DUBAI

ARABIA'S
NEW-GEN
CREATIVES

NADA DEBS
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Moroccan Delight

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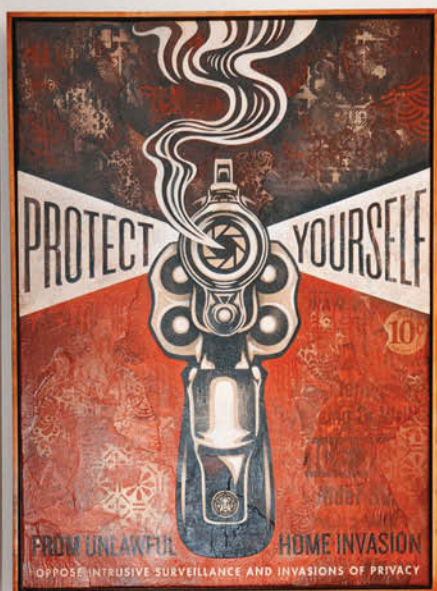


OBEGI HOME

Harper's BAZAAR

INTERIORS

MARCH/APRIL



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*Coolest collectibles
in Dubai*



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Harper's BAZAAR INTERIORS

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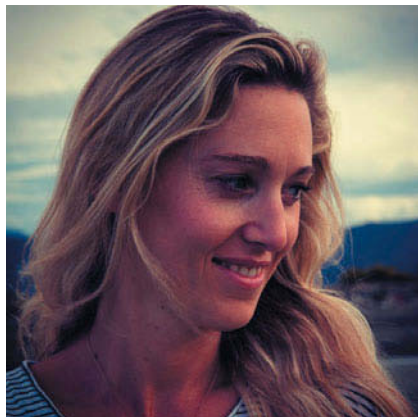
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International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition
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As DESIGN DAYS DUBAI takes place this month with its showcase of the world's best collectible and limited edition furniture and design, we thought it timely to explore the notion of COLLECTING. From vintage fashion to iconic photography, we meet the NEXT GENERATION of creatives who are making collecting cool. Turn to page 58 to discover how they are turning their passions into THRIVING BUSINESSES. While some of us gravitate towards amassing works of a particular artist, say, or in the case of gallerist Sylvain Gaillard interviewed on page 36, SpongeBob SquarePants dolls, the concept doesn't necessarily mean coveting just one specific type of product. Instead, it's more of a design philosophy and attitude. Interiors tastemakers are embracing MODERN ECLECTICISM, resisting the urge to decorate in one style and opting instead to mix pieces from different eras gathered over the years to create a LAYERED LOOK. Use our expert tips on page 51 to ensure the result appears curated, rather than just plain chaotic. To some, the concept of collecting might hint at excess consumption, yet the opposite is true. The approach is about buying less, but buying better and investing in TIMELESS PIECES you will love for a lifetime. For me, that means works by this month's cover star, furniture designer Nada Debs, whose multicultural background has inspired her to create pieces destined to become FUTURE CLASSICS.



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From top: A view of Beirut
from the O Monot hotel
rooftop; Fusion candle
holders by Nada Debs

Julia

JULIA MAILE
Acting Editor



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Vases, Dhs25 and Dhs35, Rowen and Wren



Bag, Dhs3,350, Eddie Handmade



Sunglasses, Dhs1,750, Chloé



Balenciaga



Ring, Dhs33,080, AS29 at S'uce Rocks



Lanterns, Dhs59 and Dhs80, Crate and Barrel



Plate, Dhs399, Indigo Living

Editor's CHOICE

Combine soft blush tones with sophisticated steely grey

Compiled by JULIA MAILE



Chair, Dhs27,750, by Hans J Wegner at Discover & Deliver



Mary Katantova



Watch, Dhs480, Unknown



Fabric and wallpaper, Dhs825/m and Dhs635/m, Pierre Frey



Eau de parfum, Dhs355, Narciso Rodriguez



Dining table, Dhs52,570, Ginger & Jagger



Earrings, Dhs1,650, Dior

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*The freshest new looks to
transform your interior*

1

*Flirty FLORALS make an
irresistible motif
for the new season*

2

*Luxury BOHEMIAN style evokes the tastes
of a well-travelled curator*



Pendant lights,
find similar
from Dhs450 at
Madam Stoltz



Clashes of TEXTURE add depth

Table lamp,
Dhs11,870,
Christian Liaigre

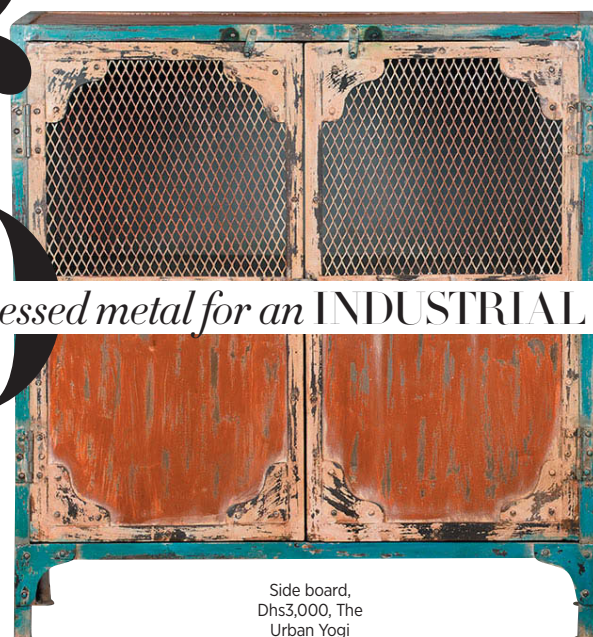
Driftwood
garland,
Dhs89, Crate
and Barrel

Be inspired by NATURE



*A blissful
COCOON spells
lazy summer days*

Hammock,
Dhs1,370, Rockett
St George



Distressed metal for an INDUSTRIAL vibe

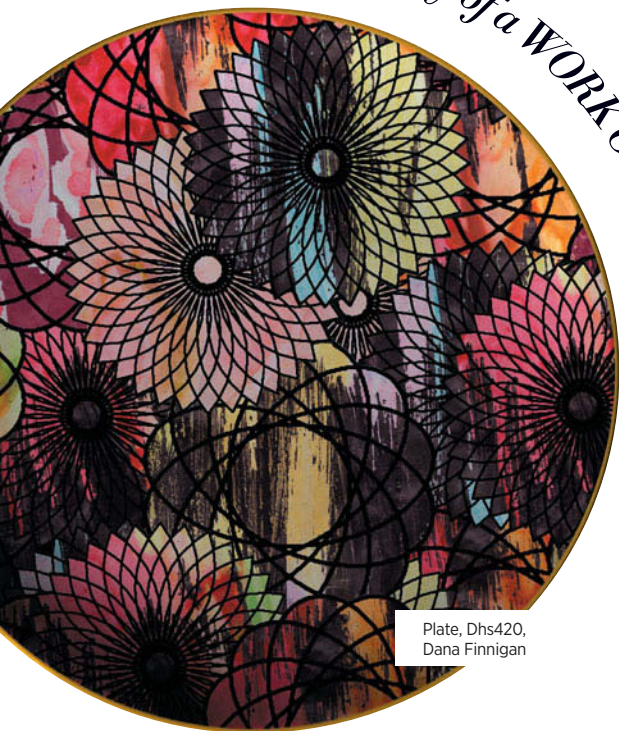
Side board,
Dhs3,000, The
Urban Yogi



Cushion,
Dhs1,400, Raj
Tent Club

*Vintage handicrafts offer the promise
of a unique ONE-OF-A-KIND interior*

A pretty plate worthy of a WORK OF ART



Plate, Dhs420,
Dana Finnigan

Rug,
Dhs5,420,
Ember by
Rodarte at
The Rug
Company



*A fashionable COLLABORATION with the
promise of luxury underfoot*



Quirky accessories add WIT and personality



Lamp, Dhs2,770,
House of
Hackney



Chair, Dhs44,460,
by Finn Juhl
at Discover &
Deliver

*Timeless elegance comes
courtesy of an ICON of
Danish design*

*Choose a NICHE home
fragrance for a unique sensory experience*



Candle,
Dhs350,
Byredo

13

*Make a statement with
BOLD wallpaper
in dramatic shades*

Lady Roxana
wallpaper,
Dhs2,060/roll,
Rubelli



Mirror, Dhs4,390,
Indigo Living

Wall decoration,
Dhs3,820, Cities

Pitcher,
Dhs139, Crate
and Barrel

Dish, Dhs89,
Crate and
Barrel

Wallpaper,
Dhs625/30cm,
Hermès

Satchel,
Dhs7,815,
Chloé

Saint Laurent

THAT '70s SHOW

Embrace the decade with bold colour and luxe textures

Glass, Dhs59,
Crate and
Barrel

Plate, Dhs2,240,
Tanagra

Ai Weiwei limited
edition book,
Dhs7,180, Taschen

Boots, Dhs7,250,
Louis Vuitton

Tableware,
from Dhs290,
Missoni

Tom Ford

Vase, Dhs7,300,
Alexander Lamont
at En Vogue

Sofa, Dhs28,300,
Munna

Lamp,
Dhs2,775,
Aria

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*Former Bazaar Interiors
stylist VICTORIA WALLER
blooms with her fresh new
brand, LIVING GREEN*

NEW TALENT

I come from a family of creatives; my mother is a genius in garden design, my father can build almost anything and my sister is a wonderfully talented painter. Their resourcefulness and willingness to take on challenges to create beauty has always been a major influence in my life.

After working in media and events for 15 years and as a stylist for *Bazaar Interiors*, I began freelancing, which allowed me to launch Living Green in October 2014. It's a concept that was born from a desire to create a sustainable alternative to the hundreds of cut flowers that are flown to the UAE.

All of our green designs are lovingly handmade in Dubai and are suitable for both

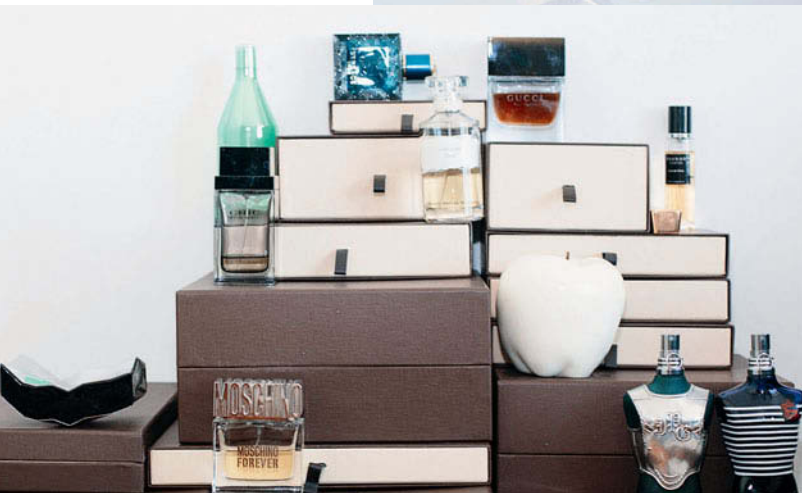
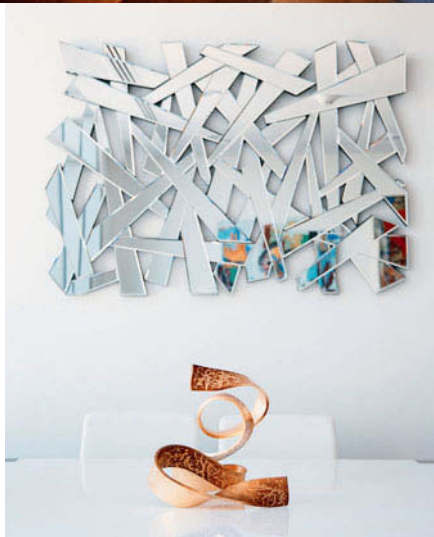
indoor and outdoor areas. They come in two categories; long life plants like succulents and ferns, and short life plants like hydrangeas and orchids. The plants are low maintenance so work well as bespoke installations for events, retail or home spaces. My design inspiration comes from shops on Plant Street in Satwa, catwalk colour trends and the flower artist Azuma Makoto, who is known for his botanical sculptures.

Creating greater awareness of the importance of sustainability and green choices in the Middle East is one of my main aims. Living Green is a testament to this, as we recycle the moss and twine from the short life plants to make gorgeous new creations for the next event.

@livinggreenme



Clockwise from top right: Christian Louboutin and other limited edition sneakers; Limited edition Jeff Staple Pigeon; Fragrances and Louis Vuitton boxes collected over the years; Decorative mirror from Italy and sculpture by Turkish artist, Ahmet Nejat



ART HOUSE

Bazaar Interiors gets up close and personal with committed collector
SYLVAIN GAILLARD

For Swiss private banker turned gallerist Sylvain Gaillard, it was the five metre high ceilings that cemented his desire to live in his Burj Daman apartment. "I have always dreamed about living in a duplex because it's a great canvas upon which to hang my art collection," he says of the two bedroom apartment he shares with his marketing executive wife, Valdeta. The couple relocated to Dubai from Geneva six months ago so Sylvain could take on the role of general manager of Opera Gallery, DIFC, and since then the couple have created a stylish sanctuary filled with contemporary art and designer collectables.

"I started collecting art during my twenties when I was a student," says Sylvain. "I would buy limited edition prints or unique photographs for \$100, but every time it felt like I was buying a Picasso, it made me so happy." Over the years his tastes have grown more sophisticated and now he takes a disciplined approach to collecting. "I buy two pieces per year, and I have strict criteria, whereby the artist has to be alive, I have to meet him or her, and the piece should not exceed a certain amount."

Sylvain has transformed his love for collecting art from a hobby into a career. "After more than 10 years working for banks, I became jaded and wanted to do something else. The turning point came when I was doing a portfolio review with a client. When I ended up spending half an hour reviewing his assets and three hours talking about art, I knew something was wrong." His career defining moment came when he was approached by the Opera Gallery. "I now go to work every day with a huge smile on my face," he says. "I must be one of the rare gallerists who reads Bloomberg and Artnet with equal enthusiasm."

While he's reluctant to pick a favourite work on display in his apartment, Sylvain is excited about his recent acquisition of a painting called *Village Magician* by Baseem Rayyes, a Syrian artist based in Sharjah. "We had another work by the same artist in the gallery and I was sad when it left for





Top: Munny by Kidrobot signed by the couple's friends alongside a limited edition figurine received as a gift and Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty book. Right: Village Magician by Baseem Rayyes and candy sculpture by Laurence Jenkell. Left: Photographic tribute to the couple love for shoes



Top: Vintage Mickey Mouse plush toy. Right: Sylvain with SpongeBob SquarePants memorabilia. Left: Charlie Chaplin painting by Mr Brainwash



"I HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT LIVING IN A DUPLEX BECAUSE IT'S A GREAT CANVAS UPON WHICH TO HANG MY ART COLLECTION"
Sylvain Gaillard, gallerist



delivery," he says. "I told the client he had bought one of my favourite pieces and his response was priceless. He said, 'I will send you regular selfies with the painting in the back.' After that, I called Baseem and he agreed to do a commissioned work, which now sits proudly in the living room."

Admitting to being "a bit OCD", Sylvain's love for collecting goes beyond just art. As a graduate student, watching SpongeBob SquarePants on the Nickelodeon channel during study breaks quickly became a daily habit. "One day I bought a small SpongeBob doll and that's how things started. I am a compulsive collector, so I wanted to own all the other plush dolls, which led to more items." Sylvain is in good company when it comes to his love of the quirky character. "SpongeBob is a permanent fixture in the world of art and fashion," he says. "The artist Kaws has been producing paintings for years, Marc Jacobs has one tattooed on his arm and the character has been the subject of many collaborations with fashion brands."

As gallery manager, Sylvain's fashion attire for work is necessarily formal – he favours tailor-made shirts, pastel trousers and suit jackets – but he injects a dose of fun into his footwear. "People are used to seeing me wearing spiky Louboutins," he says. So enamoured is he with shoes, he's lost count of his collection. "I must own more than 60 pairs. I have a large collection of Nike, including Air Max 90, Air Jordan 4 and Flyknit Trainer." But he's not a collector in the pure sense. "I wear all my shoes, I refuse to have sneakers sitting on a shelf and I never resell any of my limited edition pairs. I'll probably get buried with some pretty decent kicks on my feet."

Plates, from
Dhs75, Rometti



Cushions,
Dhs845 each,
Inigo Elizalde



BLUE LAGOON

Dip in to a palette of cool shades this spring

Vase, Dhs229,
Crate and
Barrel



Coat stand,
Dhs6,661,
by Polart at
Cities



Vase, Dhs179,
Crate and Barrel



Chair,
Dhs30,320,
Fornasetti



Sunglasses,
Dhs1,200,
Ray-Ban



Bag,
Dhs10,990,
Dsquared2



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Stool, Dhs830,
by Nayef
Francis at
Cities



Tea pot,
Dhs200, T2



Sofa, Dhs13,200,
Jonathan Adler



Shoe, Dhs400, Mulberry



Transition is always disconcerting. For me, the change from editor to columnist has offered fresh perspective on a habitual scene; the Paris furniture fair, Maison et Objet. It may not have the style and sass of Milan's Salone, or the cutting edge cool of the London Design Festival, but it's perhaps the only reason to tread the frozen streets of Paris in January; to meet the industry folk and get a little sense of design's direction this year.

If you're a first time visitor, there are eight giant halls to navigate. Most are jammed from window to door with a universal display of décor faux pas – from shabby chic to Christmas tinsel; after all this is the fair for all tastes (however good or bad). I always gravitate towards those contemporary brands showcasing smart new concepts. As Fair Director for Dubai's own furniture fair, I'm there to hunt for products or brands that may make the edit for our own show in October.

There's no prescription here; the best finds are almost always discovered by chance. This year, Moser makes an instant impression. The luxury Bohemian crystal glass manufacturer presents an avant-garde wall of colour: handmade geometric vases in gemstone shades I know will resonate with the UAE's love of bold and bright things.



Seemingly trapped in my love affair for artisan glassware, I find myself at the Daum stand, and fortuitously bump into interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard, whose clever celebrity stylings have graced both the cover and inside of *Bazaar Interiors* over the years. He presents the pieces he's designed for Daum and Haviland; a dinner service, centrepiece and chandelier, a witty take on the Garden of Eden – with apple, serpent, et al. He's inspirational and good humoured – giving me the skinny on his latest projects and promises to visit. (I'll keep you posted).

A visit to the Sieger stand is obligatory. I meet



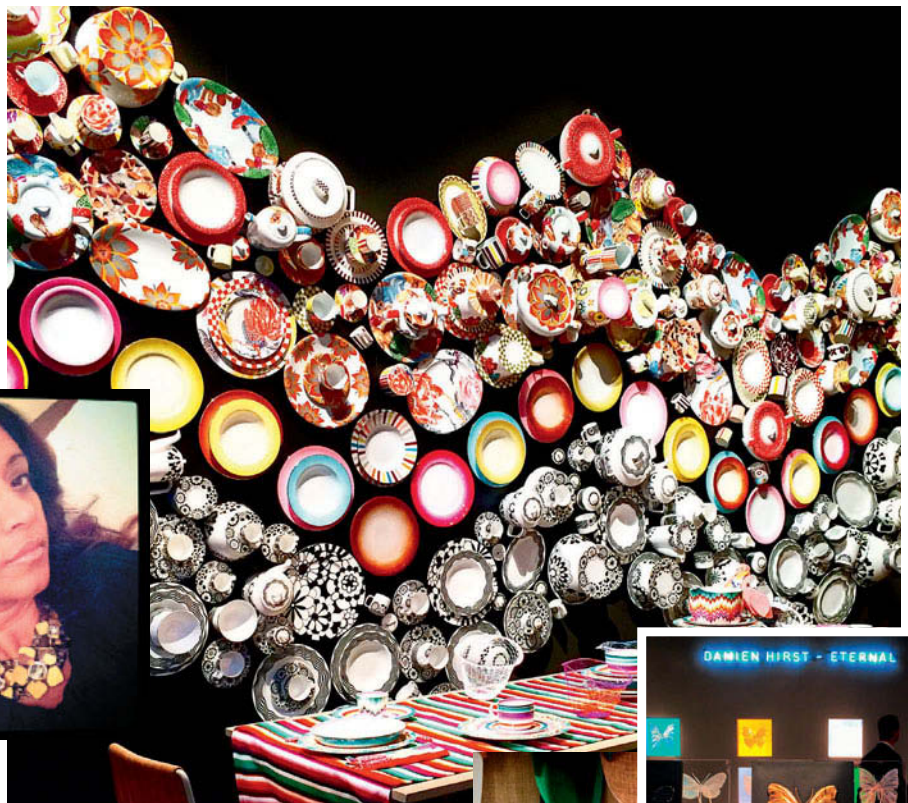
TREND HUNTER

People in glass houses should applaud the designer, says Downtown Design Director RUE KOTHARI

creative head Christian Sieger – one of the visionary brothers that have revitalised traditional tableware. Next, an impromptu meeting at Fornasetti turns into a celebration, sampling the brand's own bubbly made from Barolo grapes. Lunch with Preciosa follows, to discuss the epic new chandeliers they are producing for the region, and a visit with Saint-Louis, to discover the modular chandelier system they have devised for lovers of bespoke luxury.

Of course, not all the action is to be had at the fair. The majority of liaisons happen 'Off Deco' – a visit to Lelievre's studios to pore over the latest fabrics and an enlightening hour at de Gournay exploring the heritage of their hand painted papers. I leave, convinced that I simply don't have enough pattern in my life; both aesthetically and figuratively.

As with every January trip to Paris, it ends with a warm fuzzy feeling, the yearly shindig at the sprawling residence belonging to Baccarat designer



Clockwise from top: Missoni home collection; Damien Hirst for Lalique; fabrics from Kvadrat; Haviland plate and cup by Martyn Lawrence Bullard; De Gournay wallpaper

Mathias. He is a gifted collector with an inscrutable eye and an infallible enthusiasm for life. From the salon to the kitchen, the dining room to the reception – the home is filled with people. On closer inspection, these people are some of Paris' most respected designers and artisans in their natural habitat; talking about design and feasting on Mathias' home-roasted meats and breads. It is a fitting end to a week that has become one I treasure more each year, a time to feel part of a design community that stretches across the globe.

Follow Rue on Instagram and Twitter @RueKothari



—DESIGN— ICON

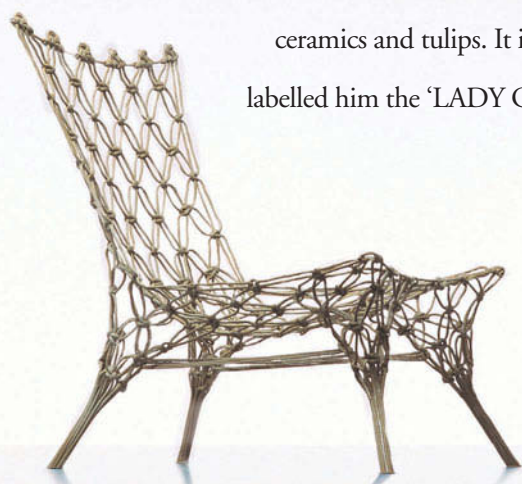
Dutch design wonder, MARCEL WANDERS, creates a world of fantasy with his whimsical flair



Marcel Wanders.
Top left: Valentine
suspended
chandelier by the
designer for Moooi

‘H ere to create an environment of LOVE, LIVE with PASSION, and make our most exciting DREAMS COME TRUE’... Words by Marcel

Wanders that epitomise his mission as one of the most AVANT-GARDE designers of our time. With a body of work that spans more than two decades, it was in 1996 that his breakthrough ‘Knotted Chair’ brought him international recognition for a design that united traditional and high-tech materials. In 2001, he co-founded one of Europe’s most successful design companies, MOOOI, where he serves as creative director responsible for selecting future designers and creating MEMORABLE collections for the label himself. An architect of DREAMSCAPES that never cease to entertain and captivate the public, MARCEL was named by *Businessweek* as one of Europe’s ‘25 Leaders of Change’ in 2002 and awarded the GOOD DESIGN AWARD in 2011. His surrealist style and historical references are encapsulated in projects such as the ANDAZ HOTEL, Amsterdam, where the interior looks to the Dutch Golden Age with Delft ceramics and tulips. It is no wonder the *New York Times* labelled him the ‘LADY GAGA OF DESIGN.’



Marcel Wanders' popular Knotted and Tulip chairs. The Delft rug and Egg vase are created for Moooi. Available exclusively at Superstudio.me



MODERN MIX

Team rustic accessories with refined pieces for an eclectic yet elegant look

FASHION FORWARD

Calvin Klein fans can now add a dose of the brand's signature understated luxury design to their homes with the UAE launch of the Calvin Klein Curator Collection. Available exclusively at Interior's Dubai showroom, the collection includes contemporary pieces for the bedroom, living and dining room crafted from luxe materials such as polished walnut, glass and natural oak. Interiorsfurniture.com



SHOPPING

New destinations to visit for a décor update

NEWS



NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

For luxury furniture with an industrial edge, check out new online concept store, The Bowery Company. Inspired by New York, it brings a curated collection of design accessories from around the world all the way to Dubai. The website's Gift Corner is our new go-to for stylish home accessories, each presented in a chic gift box. Thebowerycompany.com

WELCOME HOME

For years H&M has tormented us by not offering it's trend-led home décor concept on these shores. But that's set to change this month with the launch of H&M Home at Dubai's Deira City Centre and the Abu Dhabi Mall. With a focus on natural textures and geometrics, top of our list is the woven storage bin and monochrome blanket. Hm.com

Bazaar loves... ARTSY APP If you're an art enthusiast with a desire to become a collector, this is the app for you. Free to download, it provides access to the world's largest database of contemporary and historical art along with comprehensive coverage of galleries, museums and international art fairs. But best of all, it allows you to connect with galleries around the world to purchase select works straight from the app. Simply browse, like and collect art, straight from your phone. Artsy.net





Left: Tarik posts his collectible *Think Tank* limited edition vinyl cover by Blur Below: Matches from around the world shared by The Idea, Miami



Above: Omar's collection of Adidas and Jordan sneakers. Right: Nakkash Gallery's collector's edition floor lamp by Jorge Moura



INSTA LIFE

*This issue we explore the
Instaworld's most unique
collectibles. Discover
and admire...*



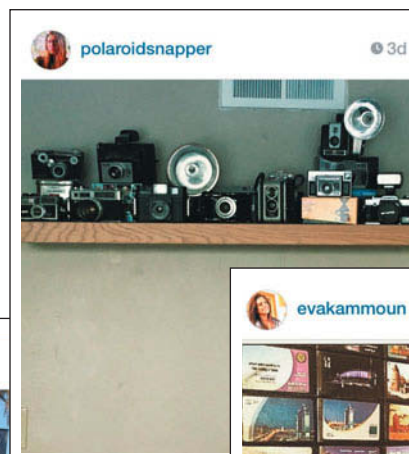
Above top: Marlies Dekkers shares her Fornasetti plate collection
Above: A collection of collections; books, DVDs and toys captured by Philosopher King



Above: Shafiq's collector's edition action figurines



Right: Polaroid Snapper's impressive haul of retro cameras
Below: Downtown Dubai's classic car show



Above: Eva Kammoun shares her father's collection of vintage Etisalat prepaid cards

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*Ahead of the return of DESIGN DAYS DUBAI this month,
we highlight this year's must-see design world superstars*



SHINING THE LIGHT ON DESIGN

Words by PRATYUSH SARUP

Featuring the hottest new works by starchitects and mega-watt designers, Design Days Dubai returns for its fourth edition with an all-star cast. Taking place from March 16-20, 2015, the region's only collectible design fair is bigger and better than ever, with a record breaking line-up of 44 international exhibitors. With so much great design on show, Bazaar Interiors previews this year's unmissable highlights

BE CURIOUS

One of a kind design-art pieces don't get any more experimental than those presented by New York City design gallery and boutique, Chamber. The destination shop to trump all destination shops, founder Juan Garcia Mosqueda was inspired to create a modern day *cabinet de curiosités* featuring limited edition art, rare designs and special objects unavailable anywhere else. Central to its ethos are collaborations with an artist or designer, who each curate an entire collection. First up is Job Smeets of Studio Job, whose edit includes the Spectacle Lamp (pictured above) alongside other commissioned, rare and vintage works by diverse designers such as Maarten Baas, Tom Dixon and Viktor & Rolf. Chambnernyc.com



DOWN TO EARTH

Celebrate nature's diversity with the classic combination of wood and metal

Above: Inaho Light Installation, Hideki Yoshimoto
Centre: Pixel Table, Ilia Potemine.
Right: Imagination Tools Cabinet, Daphna Laurens.
All at Gallery S. Bensimon.
Below: Untitled Vases, Sandra Zeenni, Galerie Silbereis

FRENCH CONNECTION

Trust the French to know a thing or two about good design. Dedicated to the discovery and promotion of contemporary ceramics, Paris' Galerie Silbereis makes its Dubai debut with Gustave Tiffoche's unique work of three flowers, alongside a set of vases with Phoenician forms by the French-Lebanese artist Sandra Zeenni. Following a well received fair debut last year, Gallery S. Bensimon returns with a stunning new collection of design objects produced with an emphasis on natural materials. Galerie-silbereis.fr; Gallerybensimon.com



Birdsmouth Table, Adam Goodrum, Broached Commissions



DESIGN FROM DOWN UNDER

Based in Melbourne, Australia, Broached Commissions is a creative direction house, design studio and gallery, which explores the idea of globalisation through the perspective of design. For Design Days Dubai, its exhibit includes pieces by designers from England, Japan, China and Australia, who reflect upon colonisation and the Australian gold rush. Highlights include Adam Goodrum's Birdsmouth table; taking its name from the Birdsmouth mast invented in the mid-19th century, the table legs are manufactured in the same traditional method that was used to make the mast. Broachedcommissions.com

THE LOCALS

At the heart of Design Days Dubai's success is its commitment to the regional design-art community. From Beirut to Ajman and beyond, this year's edition salutes the growing appreciation and worth of the Middle Eastern design scene.

- **Cities** Renowned for its selection of international and regional designers, Cities built on the success of its original concept store in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to launch a second outpost in Dubai last year. Cities' collection at this year's Design Days Dubai focuses primarily on wood, with man's interaction with nature acting as inspiration. Highlights include the dramatic limited edition Abyss table by Christopher Duffy.

Citiesdubai.com

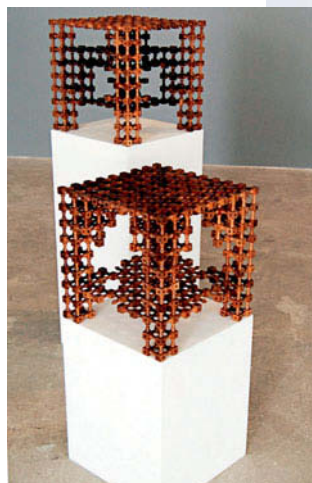
- **Nakkash Gallery** Founded by noted interior architect Wajih Nakkash in 1983, Nakkash Gallery remains at the forefront of the UAE's design-arts movement. Home to limited edition art pieces and collectible furniture that spans a gamut of eras and design styles, this Dubai gem continues to inspire, educate and influence the tastes of the region's design lovers.

Nakkashgallery.com

- **Art Factum Gallery** Located in a renovated steel factory in Beirut's industrial Quarantine District, Art Factum Gallery was created with the aim of introducing new talent and promoting more established local designers with a focus on regional materials and crafts in the production of one-off design pieces.

Artfactumgallery.com

Right: Mirror,
Jorge Moura,
Nakkash Gallery.
Below:
Beechwood
Table, Marc
Baroud, Art
Factum Gallery



Above: Abyss
Table, Duffy
London, Cities.
Left: Sideboard
2, Jorge Moura,
Nakkash
Gallery



Liquid Glacial
Table, Zaha
Hadid, David Gill
Galleries

THE DAME IS IN THE HOUSE



In the design world, there is no woman more powerful than Zaha Hadid. The Iraqi-British doyen has built a stellar career creating some of the world's most impressive modern architecture, along with covetable design pieces. This year, prepare to be wowed by Zaha's VortexXX light sculpture, presented by Zumtobel (pictured above right). The designer's Liquid Glacial table (nominated for the Design of the Year Award 2013 by the Design Museum, London) will be presented by David Gill Galleries. And if that's not enough, Wiener Silber Manufactur will also be displaying Zaha's stunning vases. *Zaha-hadid.com*

THE CLOUD

Look up to the clouds and lose yourself... This is Commonplace Studio's intention for viewers of its never-before-seen installation. Belying its seemingly random formation, twenty-eight pendant lamps are suspended in space creating a cloud like composition. Combined with blown glass, super glossy chromed aluminium and custom-built micro-projectors



embedded within each lamp fixture, the lights orchestrate a weather-like spectacle, suggesting moving images of moody skies. The bespoke installation, designed to serve as a new medium to meet, discuss and to dream, is brought to Dubai by the fair's long-time show-stoppers, Victor Hunt Designart Dealer.

Victor-hunt.com



Leather Hammock,
Saher Samman,
Tashkeel

THE FUTURE

Committed to nurturing the next generation of regional creatives, Tashkeel engages designers, makers and artisans based in the UAE to develop a range of products that exemplify a design aesthetic innately from the Emirates. Following nine months of mentoring and workshops with established designers, the four UAE-based designers enrolled in the

2014/2015 class of Tashkeel's Design Programme - Talin Hazbar, Rand Abdul Jabbar, Saher Samman and Latifa Saeed - will unveil the results of their hard work at this year's Design Days Dubai. The limited edition products will be part of Tashkeel's newly-established design product label 'Tanween', which will be available exclusively through Tashkeel. *Tashkeel.org*



Brass Tornado
Table, Zhoujie
Zhang, Gallery ALL

THE DEBUTANTES

Continuing its tradition of providing worthy galleries with their first Middle Eastern platform, Design Days Dubai plays host to some of the hottest names in design-art.

• **Gallery ALL** Established in 2013, Gallery ALL is one of China's first galleries dedicated to exhibiting limited-edition furniture and design objects. Aiming to facilitate a design dialogue between the East and West, the gallery has spaces in both Beijing and Los Angeles, allowing it to introduce exceptional designs to the Chinese market while promoting Chinese designers to a global audience. The gallery also boasts fabrication facilities in both China and the US, which encourages a more holistic approach to design, fabrication and display. *Gallery-all.com*

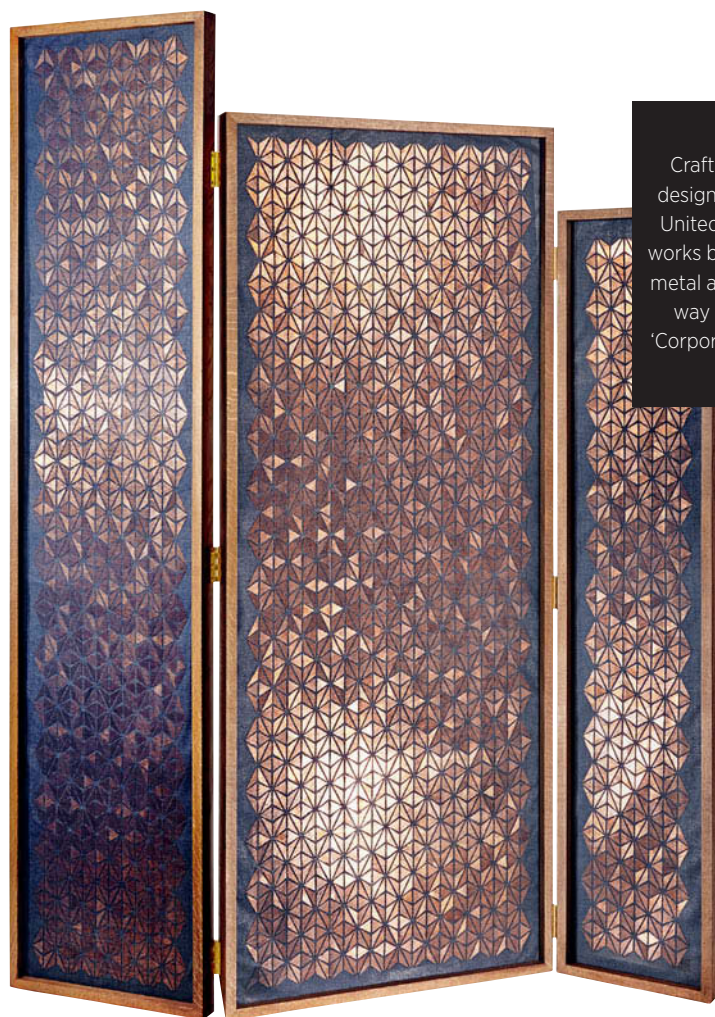
CURVED LINES

Organic shapes expressed through clear geometries and clean lines is a key trend at this year's show

• **Gallery FUMI.** The first gallery to open in Shoreditch, London, in 2008, Gallery FUMI quickly established itself as a key player in the international design scene. Objects are usually made by hand by the designer in a small workshop context, or in small batch production fusing modern and traditional workmanship. For 2015, the gallery will present a series of new pieces commissioned specifically for the fair created by an all-star cast of designers including Rowan Mersh, Sam Orlando Miller and Studio Markunpoika. *Galleryfumi.com*

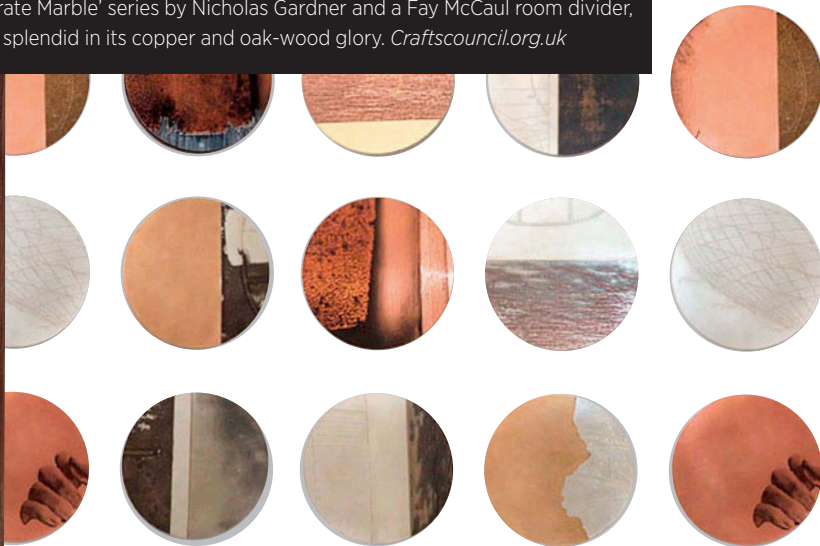


OO Lounge Chair,
Thomas Lemut,
Gallery FUMI



BEST OF BRITISH

Crafts Council's dedication to nurturing, promoting and protecting British design has led to some exemplary pieces that showcase the very best of the United Kingdom's traditional and modern craft capabilities. On show will be works by Rebecca Gouldson - best known for creating richly textured bespoke metal artworks - and glassworks by maestro Aline Johnson. Also making their way from the UK to Dubai are sculptural vessels by Simone Brewster, the 'Corporate Marble' series by Nicholas Gardner and a Fay McCaul room divider, splendid in its copper and oak-wood glory. Craftscouncil.org.uk



Left: Copper Screen, Fay McCaul.
Right: Monoscope Wall Pieces, Rebecca Gouldson.
Both Crafts Council

Left: Catenary Arch, Daniella Mooney.
Right: Siamese Twins, Justine Mahoney. Both Southern Guild

GILDED SOUTH AFRICA

Since its first regional showcase at Design Days Dubai's inaugural edition, this powerhouse of South African design has cultivated a faithful following amongst the region's design elite. For this year's fair, Southern Guild aims to convey the multi-faceted nature of South African design, featuring diverse pieces including sculptural works by artists Justine Mahoney and Daniella Mooney. Southernguild.co.za

GO REGIONAL

The world is your playground so look for designers with a strong local slant to their work to make a unique statement



THE UNMISSABLES

Cyril Zammit, Fair Director of Design Days Dubai, shares his exclusive edit of the show's stand-out pieces



CYRIL ZAMMIT Since helping to launch Design Days Dubai in 2011, Parisian-born fair director Cyril Zammit has worked with the world's top designers and industry professionals to cement the fair's position as the definitive modern and contemporary design show. Privy to the elite world of collectables on show, he reveals exclusively to *Bazaar Interiors* his pick of this year's most lust-worthy design pieces.



Southern Guild

"This South African gallery are masters at bringing high craftsmanship to an urban contemporary world. The LALA Surma collection cabinets by Dokter and Misses are handmade and hand painted - simply perfect for any setting."

Gallery ALL

"Straight lines, sharp facets and an explosive expression in brass, the Split Chair by Chinese designer Zhoujie Zhang is part of an extraordinary line series experimenting with a mathematical approach to design."

Carpenters Workshop Gallery:

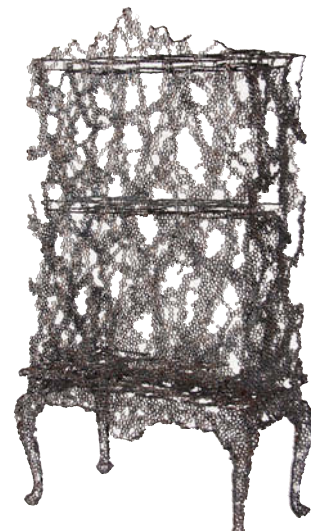
"I admire Vincent Dubourg's skills at giving a robust material a fragile finish. Vincent works away from Paris in a remote atelier - a foundry close to Clermont-Ferrand - where he brings alive masterpieces in steel or aluminium every two to three years."

Chamber NYC:

"Nothing signifies the bright future of a new gallery better than collaborations with masters like Alessandro Mendini. The 24 karat gold-plated totem is a precious vase... Not for the faint-hearted!"

Gallery FUMI

"It takes exceptional vision and understanding of the soul of a material to render one of the most rigid materials known to man a subtly composed fluidity. The steel piece by Tuomas Markunpoika is an ode to his mettle."



From top: LALA Surma collection, Dokter and Misses, Southern Guild; Split Chair, Zhoujie Zhang, Gallery ALL
From far left: Bhanga Alu, Vincent Dubourg, Carpenters Workshop Gallery; Camino Totem, Alessandro Mendini, Chamber; Engineering Temporality Cabinet, Studio Markunpoika, Gallery FUMI



photography by: Gwenael Lewis

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BAZAAR

Harper's
THE COLLECTORS

“A HOME SHOULD FEEL COLLECTED NOT DECORATED”

An overly coordinated interior can make a home feel dated. Agata Kurzela, head of interiors at AK Design, explains how to invest wisely to create a sense of layered luxury

THE LOOK

There's a fine line between a room that appears collected over time and just plain chaotic. The key is to choose a primary style – modern, traditional, contemporary – then layer in vintage, antique and bespoke pieces to suit the particular design focus

The daybed is by Danish designer Hans J. Wegner. The sheep skin is from Sweden. The mirror is a French antique. The letter K is from the shop Fil de Fer in Copenhagen

INVEST IN... TIMELESS ANTIQUES

"Whether it's an armoire rescued from a crumbling French château or a vase signed by Picasso, well made pieces that have survived the test of time give a space personality and depth," says Agata. The trick is to avoid a top-to-toe look, as a room filled with nothing but antiques can feel like a museum. Achieve balance by teaming an elegant antique Biedermeier era sofa with a boxy reclaimed vintage chest used as a coffee table. Or break up an antique dining set; pair the table with industrial chairs, then use the matching chairs in another part of the house, such as a bedroom vignette. A great source for antiques in the UAE is 19th Century Antiques in Emirates Towers, Dubai. "A Pandora's box of rarities, it offers an unrivalled selection of predominantly French paintings, sculptures and fine furniture," says Agata. 19centuryantiques.com



The sofa is from the Biedermeier period. The chest is vintage and sourced from the Red Cross. The paintings are by Irene de Klerk Wolters. The carpet is from the shop De fire Årstider in Denmark

INVEST IN... BESPOKE DESIGN

"Like a couture gown, there's nothing quite as luxurious as a piece designed specifically for its owner," says Agata. "It's worth lies in its individuality... Choose a piece by the right designer and there's the potential for it to appreciate exponentially in value." Whether the commission is the result of a frustrated search for just the right piece or a love affair with a maker's style of work, a bespoke design allows complete control over the furniture's look and feel, offering endless possibilities. "The clearer you are about what you want, or don't want, the easier the design process will be," says Agata. "Think about function, size and position in the room." Bespoke pieces are an investment, so consider making it the focal point of the room; a flash of red in an otherwise neutral setting draws the eye to a bespoke dining table, without dominating the space. For a home-grown touch, consider commissioning an established local designer such as Khalid Shafar. Khalidshafar.com



The bespoke dining table in glass and metal was designed by the house's owner, Mathieu Ducournau. The Robert Mallet-Stevens dining chairs were purchased second hand and reupholstered

INVEST IN... QUALITY VINTAGE

Incorporating the right vintage piece into a design scheme provides a sense of authenticity. "Juxtapose the curved organic shape of an Arne Jacobsen Swan chair with the stark clean lines of a contemporary white console to avoid a room looking like it's stuck in the '50s," says Agata. When buying vintage - particularly mid-century modern - be wary of knock-offs. "If there is no manufacturer marking, the piece is probably not an original." Serious collectors should keep an eye out for prototypes from the first years of production, or pieces owned by someone crucial to the design's icon status. Genuine vintage pieces can be difficult to track down in the GCC, so look online at sites such as 1stdibs.com. Or opt for a licensed reproduction; Ikonhouse stocks brands such as Vitra, which holds the license to reproduce Jean Prouvé's furniture. [Ikonhouse.com](http://ikonhouse.com)



The Swan chair is by Arne Jacobsen. The white console is designed by Stefan and Evelina Söderberg. The paintings are by the Swedish artist Rune Hagberg

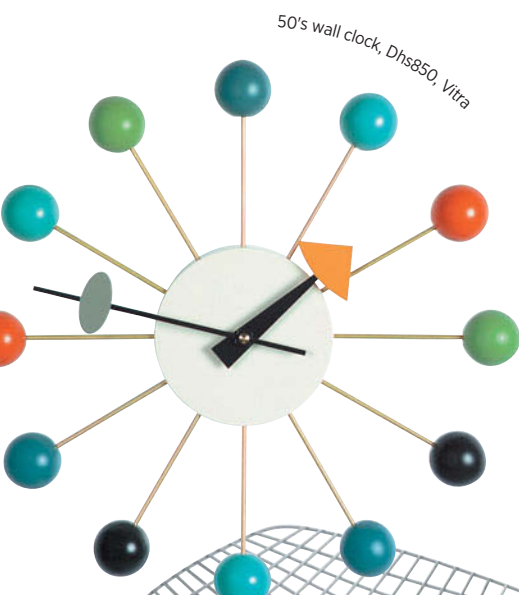


INVEST IN... LIMITED EDITION

Exclusive one-offs or limited edition pieces with an artisanal flavour give a space a unique identity and talking point. 'Such works are usually statement pieces, so give them room to breathe by incorporating them into an otherwise neutral interior,' says Agata. As well as being aesthetically appealing, a work signed by the designer also has the potential to be a savvy investment. "A limited edition piece by a creative star such as Marc Newson, Ron Arad or Zaha Hadid is an ideal way to embark on a design investment journey," says Agata. Innovative British design company Established & Sons has introduced a number of covetable limited pieces by well known designers such as architect Amanda Levete and cutting-edge talent Barber Osgerby. Closer to home, the Unfolding Unity stool by Aljoud Lootah offers a gateway into the Middle Eastern design ethos. Establishedandsons.com; Aljoudlootah.com



The Stack tower of drawers is designed by Shay Alkalay for Established & Sons



50's wall clock, Dhs850, Vitra

DESIGN CLASSICS

*12 enduring style icons
you're guaranteed to love
for a lifetime*



Embassy cutlery, Dhs665 for 12 pcs, David Mellor



Diamond chair, Dhs5,410, Harry Bertola



Round French oven, Dhs1,030, Le Creuset

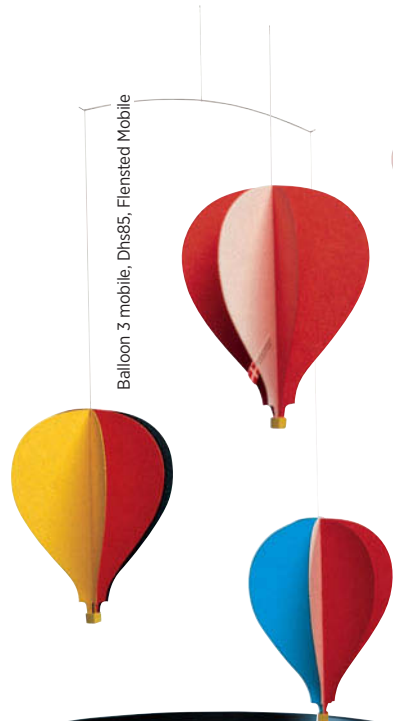


Cocktail shaker, Dhs1,300, by Sylvia Sotiale for Alessi



Anglepoise lamp, Dhs1,110, George Carwardine at Superstudio

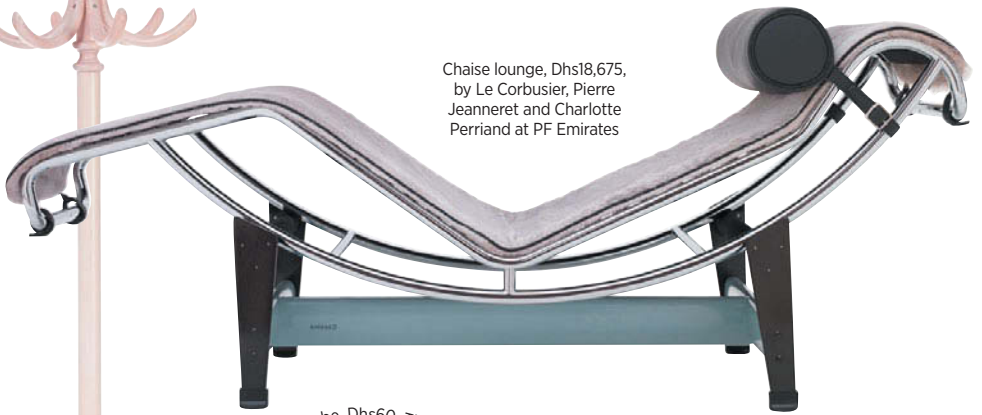
"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be **USEFUL,**



Balloon 3 mobile, Dhs85, Flinsted Mobile



Café Daum coat stand, Dhs705, Ton



Chaise longue, Dhs18,675, by Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand at PF Emirates



Rubik's cube, Dhs60, The Toy Store

Timeless APPEAL

Embrace good design on a daily basis by investing in pieces that have stood the test of time



Wishbone chair, Dhs2930, Hans J. Wegner at Icon House



Noguchi Table, Dhs5,880, Herman Miller

or believe to be **BEAUTIFUL** William Morris

THE *NEW-GEN* COLLECTORS

Introducing the UAE-based creatives turning their passion for collecting into thriving businesses

Words by JULIA MAILE AND PRATYUSH SARUP
Photography by REBECCA REES
Styling by JULIA MAILE

VINTAGE FASHION

Maha Abdul Rasheed, owner of Bambah boutique

"I've always had a passion for vintage - I used to go through my mother and grandmother's photographs and long for their style. I've been a collector for nine years and I love traveling the world hunting for unique, one-off pieces at boutiques such as Vintage Bar in Le Marais, Paris, or the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Los Angeles. In 2010, after a great deal of research, I decided Dubai was ready for a vintage boutique and the idea of Bambah was born. When shopping for vintage, I recommend

always trying on clothing before buying it and rejecting any items that fit too tightly, as older seams can rip much more easily than new garments. While there are really no rules on how you should wear vintage - the whole idea is to have fun experimenting - I believe it's better to mix and match vintage pieces with today's trends. And by wearing just one vintage item at a time, it will stand out as the focal point of the outfit, rather than competing with other pieces." *Bambah.com*

"THERE ARE REALLY NO RULES ON HOW YOU SHOULD WEAR VINTAGE... THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO HAVE FUN EXPERIMENTING"

Maha Abdul Rasheed, boutique owner



Maha with
vintage dress
by Carolina
Herrera

COLLECTORS

"IT IS THE EMOTION A PICTURE STIRS IN
THE VIEWER THAT IS, TO ME, THE TRUE
MEASURE OF ITS WORTH"

Nadia El Barka, Gallery Director

Kate Moss is a British model and actress. She was born on January 16, 1972, in Reading, Berkshire, England. She is the daughter of a British father and a German mother. She has a younger sister, Anna Moss, who is also a model. Moss began modeling in 1990, when she was 18, after being discovered by a scout. She quickly became one of the most successful models in the world, appearing on the covers of numerous fashion magazines, including *Vogue*, *Elle*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. She has also appeared in several films, including *Trainspotting*, *High Society*, and *The Hot Chick*. Moss is known for her slender physique and her ability to wear a wide range of clothing, from high fashion to casual wear. She has been the subject of much media attention, both for her modeling career and for her personal life. She has been married twice and has two children. Moss is also a philanthropist, having supported several charities, including the British Red Cross and the British Heart Foundation. She was named one of the most powerful women in the world by *Time* magazine in 2005. Moss is currently active in modeling and acting, and is expected to continue to be a major figure in the fashion industry for many years to come.



ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Nadia El Barka, gallery director at LUMAS gallery

"I was working in fashion in the '80s and at the office we had these stunning coffee table books with one magnificent image after another. It's when I first laid my eyes on the 1939 Horst classic, *The Mainbocher Corset*. I wanted to know more – who was this girl? Where was she in her life? Then Madonna recreated it in the music video for *Vogue*, beaming the image into the consciousness of a new era. Today, photographs are like little gems to me – slivers of people's lives. Personally I love the works of Herb Ritts; it meant something to be photographed by him... A kind of stamp of approval on stardom. And who could ignore Damien Hirst's pure genius? When investing in photography, it's wise to ascertain if the photographer is a master of his chosen technique. How rare is the picture and the moment in time? But ultimately it is the emotion a picture stirs in the viewer that is, to me, the true measure of its worth." *Lumas.com*

Nadia with a signed,
limited edition print
Kate Moss by Ralph
Ueltzhoeffer

VINTAGE TIMEPIECES

Tariq Malik, co-founder of
Momentum watch boutique

“My love for watches started in the early '90s with a limited edition Swatch Goldfinger I bought when I was 16. A few weeks later I sold it to a client who paid three times the price. It opened my eyes to trading and now not a single day goes by where I don't think about watches. I love the history, stories and provenance. I often wear two watches because I don't know which one to choose. Collecting does not always mean investing; the watch has to reflect your personal taste. Choose a watch with a good resale value from an established brand such as Patek Philippe, Rolex, Jaeger-LeCoultre or IWC. Condition is key; whether it's vintage or contemporary, always buy from a reputed dealer or auction house to ensure all parts are original and well kept. In Dubai, Momentum is the only vintage watch boutique but internationally there are a few good dealers. I love to browse for watches at the Miami Beach Antique Show, then it's straight to the airport as there's no money left in my pockets.” *Momentum-dubai.com*



Tariq wears 1975 Rolex
Day Date President
(left hand) and 1979
Rolex Day Date Stella
Enamel (right hand)
both in 18- carat gold



CONTEMPORARY ART

Grace Hauser, curator at XVA Gallery

"I was lucky to grow up surrounded by artists and art lovers. Through my mother, Mona Hauser, who founded the XVA Gallery in Bastakiya in 2003, I was afforded a rare glimpse into the creative and commercial sides of the art world, and found both aspects fascinated me no end. I started asking questions about what makes 'good' art and why one artist is more successful than another. This led me to the art history programme at NYU Abu Dhabi. As I graduate this May with a better understanding of the art world, I can say without doubt that nothing

compares to an artwork that finds its place in your heart and soul. One of my favourite works in my home is a canvas by the artist Jonathan Gent. Maybe it's because I know Jonathan personally, but his work resonates with me at a spiritual level. The Iraqi creatives Walid Siti and Halim Al Karim fascinate me for their unique voices and completely different expressions. Where can one find great art? As my mother says, 'Everywhere. Just an open eye and heart are in order.' And with the Louvre opening soon, it's about to become even easier." *Xvagallery.com*

Grace and her mother Mona with Halim Al Karim's *Schizophrenia* series



Mohsin with Smoke Chair by Maarten Baas and Rabbit Lamp by Front Design both for Moooi, and Spun Table by Tom Dixon

“IT’S A MATTER OF GREAT PRIDE TO HAVE WORKS BY SOME OF MY DESIGN ICONS IN THE GALLERY, BUT IT DOESN’T MEAN I’VE STOPPED COLLECTING...”

Mohsin Jawaheri, studio owner

MODERN DESIGN

Mohsin Jawaheri, founder of Superstudio

“Working in the UAE design and build industry for 18 years was a creative education of sorts, as I began to genuinely appreciate the workmanship found in well-designed furniture and lighting. Somewhere along the way I fell in love with the Flos Taccia floor lamp – a classic that continues to inspire me to seek out exceptional design pieces. My Moooi Smoke chair is another favourite that has stood the test of time. I spotted a gap in the market for accessible top-end design products and Superstudio was born. It’s a matter of great pride to have works by some of my design icons like Tom Dixon in the gallery, but it doesn’t mean I’ve stopped collecting... The T96 executive desk designed by Osvaldo Borsani for Tecno in 1956 is top of my must-have list.” *Superstudio.me*

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A FASHIONABLE LIFE



Weekend ESCAPE

*The imposing Tudor exterior of jewellery
designer CORA SHEIBANT'S Cotswolds holiday
home belies a vibrant contemporary art-filled interior*



Eames chairs and coffee table by Ettore Sottsass. Opposite: Cora Sheibani with side table by Hans J. Wegner and art work by Swiss artist Daniel Spoerri

When regular guests at childhood family dinners include the likes of Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ettore Sottsass, a career in the creative world seems inevitable. But although it must have been tempting for Swiss-born Cora Sheibani to follow in the footsteps of her legendary art dealer father, Bruno Bischofberger, she chose instead to forge her own identity as a jewellery designer. "I was raised around people who loved art or were creative. It shaped me in many ways. Now, I realise how much I was exposed to," she says.

Cora now channels her creative energy into her eponymous jewellery line, designing one-of-a-kind pieces for private clients around the world. A lover of colour and shapes, Cora's collections favour statement pieces featuring giant stones and gems. She adopted a similarly bold aesthetic for the renovation of her country pile, which she bought with her husband in 2007 as an occasional weekend escape from their West London home.

The imposing property situated in a charming hamlet in the heart of England's rural Cotswolds certainly had a lot going for it: a large gothic Tudor revival house with romantic ivy-covered walls and vast pastoral views. Perfect – except that the house itself was stuffy, dark and dreary. "We were looking for a property offering much renovation potential," says Cora. Although the garden was overgrown with thirty years worth of weeds, Cora was undaunted. "It was the wilderness and wildness that initially attracted me to the country house," she recalls.

When it came to adapting the property to the couple's 21st century needs, Cora knew exactly what to do. She contacted Mike Rundell of the London-based architecture firm MFJ Rundell & Associates who supervised a highly skilled team of masons, carpenters, stone slate roofers, lime plasterers and painters to restore the holiday home to period perfection. Aspiring to make the house simpler, he enlarged windows to allow more natural light in and knocked down unnecessary walls to make a clever use of space. The next step was to minimise the boundaries between inside and out. "We wanted to make the house more connected to the garden, enabling better access from the house to the outside," she says.

Cora entrusted the renowned Spanish landscape designer Fernando Caruncho to create a garden open to all rooms on the ground floor. "I wanted to have a formal yet contemporary garden that would communicate well with the beautiful landscape surrounding it," she says. Formal planting is partnered with a more abstract geometrical layout of trees and empty lawn, subtly adorned with lavender banks, hawthorn, box and lime trees. The final touch was the placement of a swimming pool in the middle of the garden, where the strict geometry of the pool contrasts with the contours of the natural pond nearby. Fernando's design has turned the garden into an additional, harmonious space for relaxation and entertainment, ideal for Cora who counts gardening as one of her passions. Despite her art pedigree, a wander around the garden is just the sort of everyday activity that provides inspiration for her jewellery collections, with familiar items such as picture frames, clouds and jelly moulds sparking ideas.

With the streamlined new layout in place, Cora and her husband set out to make the interior design just as fresh and inviting. "The entire house was furnished very quickly except for the lighting, as most of the big lights are commissions created by the glass designer Paola Petrobelli." The casually elegant décor balancing classic formality with clean-lined modernity features deep, comfortable seating, retro-inspired lamps, antiques and striking artwork such as the large painting by Julian Schnabel, the round art work by the

American artist Greg Bogin and the large green painting by the Italian artist Francesco Clemente, which hangs in the bedroom alongside the Pinocchio painting by British artist Wolfe von Lenkiewicz. While the home feels welcoming and altogether at peace with the rural setting, there is not a kitschy-cosy touch in sight.

Harnessing her love of colour, Cora perked up the interior with a rejuvenating coat of mint green paint across the sitting room and the eye-catching pink canvas by the Swiss artist Olivier Mosset. Among the décor's cliché-busters in the light-suffused living room are three funky futuristic chairs by Marc Newson and a curved, 1960s Pierre Paulin sofa flanked around an Eames coffee table. The pendant lamps made from Murano hand blown glass and powder coated metal create a playful interaction with the space. "We already had a whole mixture of furniture before we moved into the house," she says. "We bought old cupboards for different rooms as we deliberately did not want to have any built-in closets." The family's day-to-day existence predominantly revolves around the bright and expansive kitchen with its ample Carrara marble-top island and the dining area where two pendant lamps from the Dutch design group Droog illuminate the vivid yellow of the Marc Newson chairs.

Once Cora felt she had definitely tipped the home's balance from dark and heavy to light and open, the period architecture no longer detracted. Her anglophile leanings aside, she has not forgotten her artistic Swiss roots, at least aesthetically speaking; the result is a weekend retreat infused with craftsmanship and painstaking design.





Sofa by Pierre Paulin, three chairs by Marc Newson and an Eames coffee table. The pendant lamps are by Paola Petrobelli. The chairs on the 80 year old rug were sourced from eBay. The art above the fireplace and the tri-coloured sculpture are both by Greg Bogin

"I was raised by people who **LOVED ART** *or were creative. It shaped me in many ways"*



View from the dining
room of the kitchen
made of painted
wood with Carrara
marble worktop



The bed in the master bedroom is by Julian Schnabel. The orange chair is by Marc Newson, the Pinocchio painting is by Wolf Lenkiewicz and the green painting is by Francesco Clemente



"We wanted the house to feel **CONNECTED** *to the garden"*



The extensive garden was created by renowned Spanish landscape designer Fernando Caruncho



Dining chairs by Marc Newson and pendant lamps by Dutch design group Droog. The art work above the fireplace is by American artist Greg Bogin and the photograph on the right hand side is by German photographer Wolfgang Tillmans



A THE OF T LIVING

A stylish reflection of her multi-cultural roots, NADA DEBS' spacious Beirut apartment is brimful of personality and creative flair

*Words by PRATYUSH SARUP
Photography by REBECCA REES
Styling by JULIA MAILE*



Nada Debs with her golden retriever, Fifty. Photograph by Christopher Aoun, wall tiles by Nada Debs, sofa from a flea market and cushions by Rifat Özbek.



Painting by Raya
Sarabki, tyre by
Mexican artist
Betsabée Romero,
vases by Lebanese
ceramist Rasha
Nawam and Clay
Bookshelves by
Maarten Baas



Painting in centre by Lebanese artist Nadim Karam, paintings to the right by Lebanese artist Jean Marc Nahas, shelf by Nada Debs, floor lamp by Rasha Nawam and vintage candles

My home is a workshop for my life," says furniture designer, Nada Debs. "From delving deeper into the prototypes of my new design pieces to exploring my love for the arts, it's important to me that when people come over they say, 'The space is so you'." After visiting Nada's 11th floor apartment in the Beirut neighbourhood of Verdun, *Bazaar Interiors* can confirm the space is most certainly a reflection of the talented designer. Tasteful and chic but with light-hearted, playful elements, it reflects Nada's creative flair that's seen her become one of the region's most celebrated design stars.

A global citizen, Nada was born in Lebanon, raised in Japan, studied in the United States and worked in London. On returning to Lebanon after 40 years away, she discovered designs for modern Middle Eastern furniture were almost non-existent. Determined to use her multi-cultural background to create furniture which would appeal to a global market, in 2000 she created her company, East and East. Today, it has retail outlets in Beirut and is represented internationally in New York, Dubai, Geneva, Cairo and Amman.

Nada has broken a few glass ceilings during her stellar career. Whether it's designers from the Middle East seeking a stronger global presence or as a woman looking to forge a successful career, the designer has paved the way so that others can have it a bit easier. "Coming back to Lebanon gave me a deeper understanding of my culture," she says. "I saw a face of the Arab world not many people abroad know about... I saw compassion, big hearts

and open arms. I decided to make myself a channel for communicating that part of my culture to the world." Nada's crystal clear intent could not have been better timed. As turmoil in the Arab community takes its share of the headlines, it is through the creative voices such as hers that a fresh perspective on the orient – traditionally shrouded in intrigue – will also emerge.

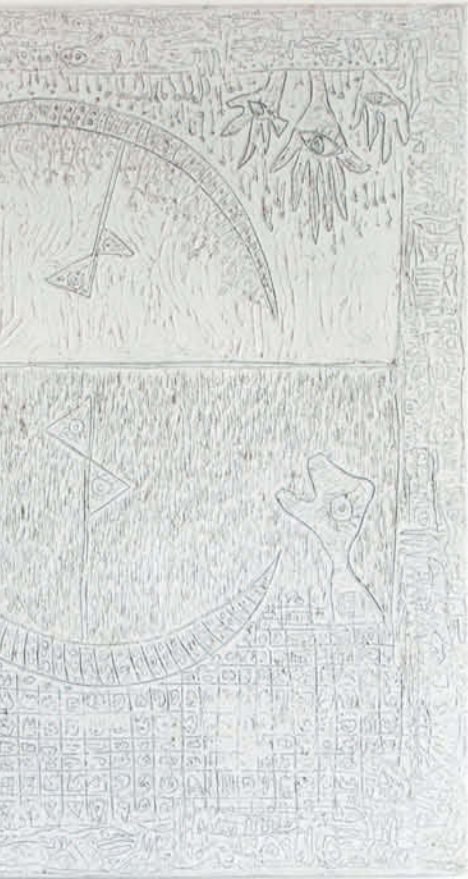
This month, as Design Days Dubai hosts an exhibition in celebration of Nada's 10 remarkable years as a Middle East-based international brand, the designer has adopted a new mission statement, #CraftCool, which aims to raise awareness of hand-made, artisanal craft with a new generation of design lovers. Ahead of the exhibition, we meet up with the designer at home and discover that love, respect and soul-searching are as integral to her design process as they are to her way of life.

What inspired you to choose this particular apartment? My home was actually a hand-me-down from my family who had purchased with the thought they would return to Beirut from Japan. But they never did - they are still there! The apartment is in a residential area that's now being bombarded by malls, but it gives me a sense of connection to my family.

What was the thought process behind designing the space and what aspects of your personality did you want your home to convey? My home is constantly evolving with me so a neutral backdrop is the perfect choice as it can take on a mix of design eras, colours and art. The space itself is very rectangular and plain so to create warm, welcoming spaces I used vintage rugs to delineate the different areas.



Painting by Iraqi
artist Halim Al
Karim. Sofa, table
and cushions by
Nada Debs



"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME THAT
WHEN PEOPLE COME OVER THEY SAY,
'THE SPACE IS SO YOU'"

Nada Debs, furniture designer



You have an enviable collection of art and design. What are your most treasured pieces? My favourite piece of art is a painting by an unknown artist and it sits right beside one by a South American artist I bought at Christie's. Isn't that the beauty of art? You are drawn to it just because you love it; lineage comes second. I love exploring contemporary Middle Eastern artists like Halim Al Karim and Nadim Karam and juxtaposing them with pieces by Greg Copeland and Jean Marc Nahas. Most of the design pieces at home are my prototypes I've created over the years. I do have particular fondness for the caricature-like Clay shelf by Maarten Baas and I adore the playful dog lamp by James Plumb.

How do you like to entertain at home? I enjoy being part of the party. I put all the hors d'oeuvres on the dining table and stock the bar with drinks. The large living and dining spaces really help when entertaining, as do the small conversation nooks. For me, its music and lighting that makes the space, along with a good mix of people. Flowers and a relaxed host help too.

When did you decide to pursue a career in design? I was drawn to arts and illustration since I was a little girl, but my parents wanted me to pursue a 'stable' career. After finishing my business studies, I decided it was time to do something for myself. I enrolled in the Interior Architecture programme at the Rhode Island School of Design in the United States. I was still battling between a course in arts and design as I stood in the enrolment queue. By the

time it was my turn to present my papers, I saw design as a manifestation of art in the third dimension. One thing led to another and here I am.

What prompted your move into furniture design? I spent a weekend in New York City and happened across a contemporary furniture showcase. It was the big turning point for me; to see such diversity being appreciated. After that, I spent my weekends creating furniture pieces; the carpenter workshops seemed alive with passion and energy. When I moved to London in 1992, the design firm I was working at expanded into furniture. It's where I truly came into my own as a furniture designer. I loved dealing with craftsmen, blacksmiths and other trades. It was always a thrill to see the prototypes for the first time and we'd spend weeks perfecting them. Soon after, in 1995, I launched my own bespoke furniture label, NDK Design.

When you moved from the UK to Beirut 15 years ago, what challenges did you face establishing your brand locally? Very simply, I was told it would not work... That I should not bother building a local brand. The Middle East was flooded with the best international design brands and people were not convinced we could compete with them. In the beginning, the craftsmen didn't like taking orders from a woman, but that changed once they saw their dying crafts being revived and their heritage finding relevance again.

As a person of Lebanese origin, who has lived in Japan and studied in the States, how are these diverse influences reflected in your life and work? They are all milestones in my design growth. Just as my forefathers arrived in Japan through the silk route, where ideas and crafts were traded and exchanged, I have also exchanged ideas and learned a lot about the aesthetic influences of where I've lived. In Japan, I learned that you can simplify a thing to its bare minimum to get to the essence of it. In the US, the Americans always went back to basics and their designs were functional, no-nonsense objects. They always looked to the future for modern influences and materials. In the UK, where I started my brand, I was influenced by how much the British revered the past and appreciated handicraft. Back in

Painting by American artist Greg Copeland with a vintage trolley and radio



“IN THE BEGINNING, THE CRAFTSMEN DIDN'T LIKE TAKING ORDERS FROM A WOMAN, BUT THAT CHANGED ONCE THEY SAW THEIR DYING CRAFTS BEING REVIVED”

Lebanon, I noticed the influence of geometry and ornament. Here people appreciate Islamic geometry, which is influenced by mathematics.

How has your success inspired others in the region to dream big? What you are calling 'my' success is a success for the region's enormously gifted craftsmen and the regional design community. The Japanese believe what we create with our hands is a manifestation of the spiritual. Whatever I and my craftsmen have created is first born through love and respect.

What does happiness mean to you and how do you feel you have worked towards it in your life? Happiness is being content and living in the moment. It took me a long time to ask myself what makes me happy. I feel that throughout my life, I've gone through tough times and good times, and every day I learn something new about myself. We all need a reason to wake up - and if one is fortunate enough to have a passion in life, it's what really drives us.



“MY HOME IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING WITH ME SO A
NEUTRAL BACKDROP IS THE PERFECT CHOICE AS IT CAN
TAKE ON A MIX OF DESIGN ERAS, COLOURS AND ART”

Nada Debs, furniture designer



Painting by Nadim
Karam, dog lamp by
James Plumb and
vintage chair

Words by CHARLOTTE COWLES Photographs by CHRISTOPHER STURMAN

ARCHITECT OF DREAMS

Designer JUAN PABLO MOLYNEUX creates his own castle in Manhattan

Molyneux sits
at his desk





The sitting room floor is inlaid with Italian onyx and coloured marble

block from Central Park on the Upper East Side of Manhattan sits a majestic limestone town house with graceful French balconies that look transported straight from the Gilded Age. Indeed, if anyone were capable of time travel, it would be the house's owner,

interior designer Juan Pablo Molyneux. An unabapologetic maximalist, Molyneux is the man to see about, say, a gut renovation of your 17th century castle or a blueprint for your private island villa – dream homes, in other words. When he overhauled several rooms in the Parisian social club Cercle de l'Union Interalliée in 2004, he installed marble consoles so enormous, they had to be lifted through the windows with a crane; more recently he created every inch of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Suhaim Al Thani's 40,000-square-foot palace in Qatar (its pillared facade has earned comparisons to the White House).

Molyneux and his wife of 38 years, Pilar – who met as teenagers in their hometown of Santiago, Chile – moved into the Beaux-Arts town house in 1986, when it was divided into separate apartments. They gradually acquired

every unit, renovating as they went, but the residence reached its current glory as a single family home only in the last five years, after Molyneux relocated his New York office from the first two floors and into a nearby building. Today the seven-story structure is a monument to the designers hallmark opulence. Enter its wrought iron front gates and you'll find a sweeping staircase encased in wood panelling that portrays a 17th century battle between the Chinese army and Portuguese invaders. Various hidden doors pop open to reveal a gleaming powder room, an old-fashioned elevator, and (most excitingly) a butler bearing tea and sandwiches. Although the house is never quite "complete" in Molyneux's eyes – last year the couple added a pantry to the rooftop terrace for dining alfresco – it satisfies him, which is saying a lot. "The making of a room, in my mind, is instant," he says. "What takes a long time is finding the right guy who's going to do this kind of embroidery or make that kind of lamp so that it matches the picture in my head."

If there's one thing Molyneux's lavish interiors have in common, it's a whiff of fantasy – quite literally, in some cases. In the corner of one sitting room towers an antique narwhal tusk, its tip nearly piercing the 11-foot ceiling. "In the 14th century, people thought these were unicorn horns," Molyneux explains. "I

found it at Partridge's in London many years ago. But back then you could not just call UPS and have them send it, so I prepared a box out of tubes and carried it through the airport and onto the plane with me," he laughs. "Imagine the security!"

For all his bold flourishes, Molyneux – who has thick silver hair, impeccable posture and looks like he was born wearing trim Italian suits – approaches his spaces with discipline. "I believe in balance," he says. "I was always fascinated by a sort of casual harmony." In the second-floor parlour, a circular bronze sculpture by the Italian artist Bruno Romeda functions as a modern counterpoint to the chequerboard marble floors ("I don't like to put down carpets") and velvet upholstered walls.

The designer is presently working on several projects abroad – including a theatre in Moscow, for which he commissioned giant silk wall hanging based on the abstract works of the Russian constructivist Kazimir Malevich – and admits that his travel schedule may be the reason he hasn't changed much around the town house for almost a year. "But in my world, nothing is ever finished," Molyneux says. "I am constantly finding beautiful pieces and I have to change a room to make them fit." Plus, he adds cheerfully: "The house is rather large. So we always have new places we can work on a little bit."

Murals by Polish
artist Staszek
Kotowski depict the
Molyneuxes and
their beloved dogs



The Molyneux-designed coffee table with a coral leather top and bronze lion legs





"I believe in **BALANCE,**
I was always **FASCINATED** *by a sort of casual harmony"*

The wisteria-
laden roof
terrace and
swimming pool

The painting in Molyneux's study is by Irish-born British artist Francis Bacon





LOFT LIVING

*Featuring a timeless palette
and an individual mix of antiques
and contemporary pieces, FAARAH
MEHTA SHEWAKRAMANI's elegant
high-rise apartment is a masterclass in
understated glamour*

Words by JULIA MAILE
Photography by REBECCA REES



"I HOPE MY NEW LITTLE VENTURE
WILL BRING SOME JOIE DE VIVRE
AND VALUE FOR ECLECTIC INTELLECT
BACK INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES"

Faarah Mehta Shewakramani, entrepreneur



Sofas and coffee table are from Marina Home Interiors; the silver dishes were gifts from Faarah's godparents; the painting is by Pakistani artist, Noshi Rind and the large silver bowl is an antique

As someone with lofty ambitions, it's fitting that Faarah Mehta Shewakramani's stylish duplex apartment is located high above Dubai in the DIFC's most commanding skyscraper, Index Tower. The granddaughter of legendary journalist Russi Karanjia, Faarah's mother Rita and her late father Karl Mehta were successful magazine publishers, and Faarah has followed in the family's footsteps by becoming a power player in the Indian and Dubai media scenes.

Now, as Faarah looks to take her career in an exciting new direction, she invites *Bazaar Interiors* into the four bedroom home she shares with her equally entrepreneurial husband, Sagar, the franchisee of fashion brands Rocco Barocco, Naracamicie and Gingersnaps, along with Juicy Avenue juice bar.

On entering the apartment, one of the most striking features is the view, with huge floor-to-ceiling windows framing a captivating scene of Dubai's urban sprawl. Boasting a spacious layout, Faarah has offset the apartment's minimalist architecture with an array of natural textures and tactile finishes including wood, silver and fur. Contemporary furniture such as an Eames La Chaise has been juxtaposed skilfully with antique accessories and an impressive art collection passed down from her father. The subtle colour palette of creams and browns imbues a feeling of warmth and sense of calm to the light and airy space.

Here, Faarah tells us about her interiors angels, art aspirations and desire to nourish the minds of Dubai's style set.

How would you describe your interior design aesthetic? I love the concept of raw and organic wood juxtaposed against sparse modern whites with a smattering of colour from art and antiques.

Did you hire an interior decorator? No, my mum and my god-mum aunty Poonam were my two interiors angels. They put the house together after my husband and I went on a three-week furniture shopping spree, like two silly kids, picking things up at random when we first moved in. My mum is only in Dubai for a short period of time each year, so she stays with us. The house has two dining spaces, sitting rooms and entrances, so it feels like we live separately, but in one home, which is ideal.

What do you love most about your apartment? The natural light and, of course, the uninterrupted view. In terms of furniture, I love the wooden sleeper tables from Marina Home Interiors, the cool music stand from Bloomingdale's and my father's 30-year-old collection of 100-odd silver rosewater sprinklers, which I will always remember him by.

You have decorated your home with an impressive collection of art. What are the stand-out pieces? A special piece in the dining room was done by MF Husain, one of India's most renowned artists. He was a good friend of the family and came to visit my father in hospital. He somehow inspired Husain to whip out his pad and sketch a very special portrait of Zarathustra. We have other pieces by him at home, but nothing compares to this one.

Can you tell us about the work you have by Salvador Dali? The etching of Leonardo Da Vinci was bought by my father when he was in his twenties from an art dealer who kept the piece for him because she and her husband grew very fond of my father, despite others wanting to buy it. My dad was a great appreciator of art and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of art history and I think that is what made them feel he deserved it more than others willing to

pay much higher prices. I remember my dad saying those were different days, when business was not just based on the highest bidder, but on relationships.

What do you look for in an art work? Who are your favourite artists? I am unfortunately not as educated as I would like to be about art. In fact, I am going to be one of the first students at the Introduction to Art History class run by my new business, Maison Imperiale.

What prompted you to start your new venture? Some years ago when I wanted to take time off to learn something new, my only option was to fly across the world to take a course that lasted a month or two. It was my 'let there be light' moment. I decided to start an academy offering short courses in subjects such as history, etiquette and music. I hope my new little venture will bring some joie de vivre and value for eclectic intellect back into people's lives. And I hope the people of Dubai will be as interested in nourishing their minds as they are their bodies and wardrobes.

An avid traveller, where do you like to go on holiday? I decided eight years ago that I would visit two new places in the world every year and I have kept my word. This year, it's to be Bhutan and Burma.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I have little spare time unfortunately, but when I do, I usually read or watch political speeches (my private pleasure!). One of my favourite pastimes is to strike up an intense conversation with my husband... And then watch, amused, as he tells me how crazy I am.

Painting by Noshi Rind, rosewater sprinklers from Faarah's father's collection, antique silver scroll





Dining table from Marina Home Interiors, vintage chairs from India, paintings on the wall by Romanian artist Georges Mazilu. Above: Faarah with vintage chair



"MY DAD WAS A GREAT APPRECIATOR OF
ART AND HAD AN ENCYCLOPAEDIC
KNOWLEDGE OF ART HISTORY"

Faarah Mehta Shewakramani, entrepreneur



Painting by
Indian artist
Sakti Burman
with a Persian
Seirafian carpet



Drawing on a
Persian easel
by Indian
artist MF
Husain



Antique
Thangkas
from Tibet
with an Eames
La Chaise

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BAZAAR

Harper's
TRENDS

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

*The latest trends to provide a stylish update for
the hardest working zones in your home*

Words by JULIA MAILE

Kitchen in black-grey
oak fronts, stainless
steel worktop and
glass panels, from
Dhs175,560, Bulthaup

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH: PRATYUSH SARUP

SHINE ON

Warmer metals such as bronze, copper and gold are having their moment to shine, replacing silver, chrome and stainless steel as the metallics of choice for kitchen hardware. For a sophisticated feel, pair the warmth and gleaming finish of these metallic accents with worktops and cabinetry in cool neutral whites and greys.

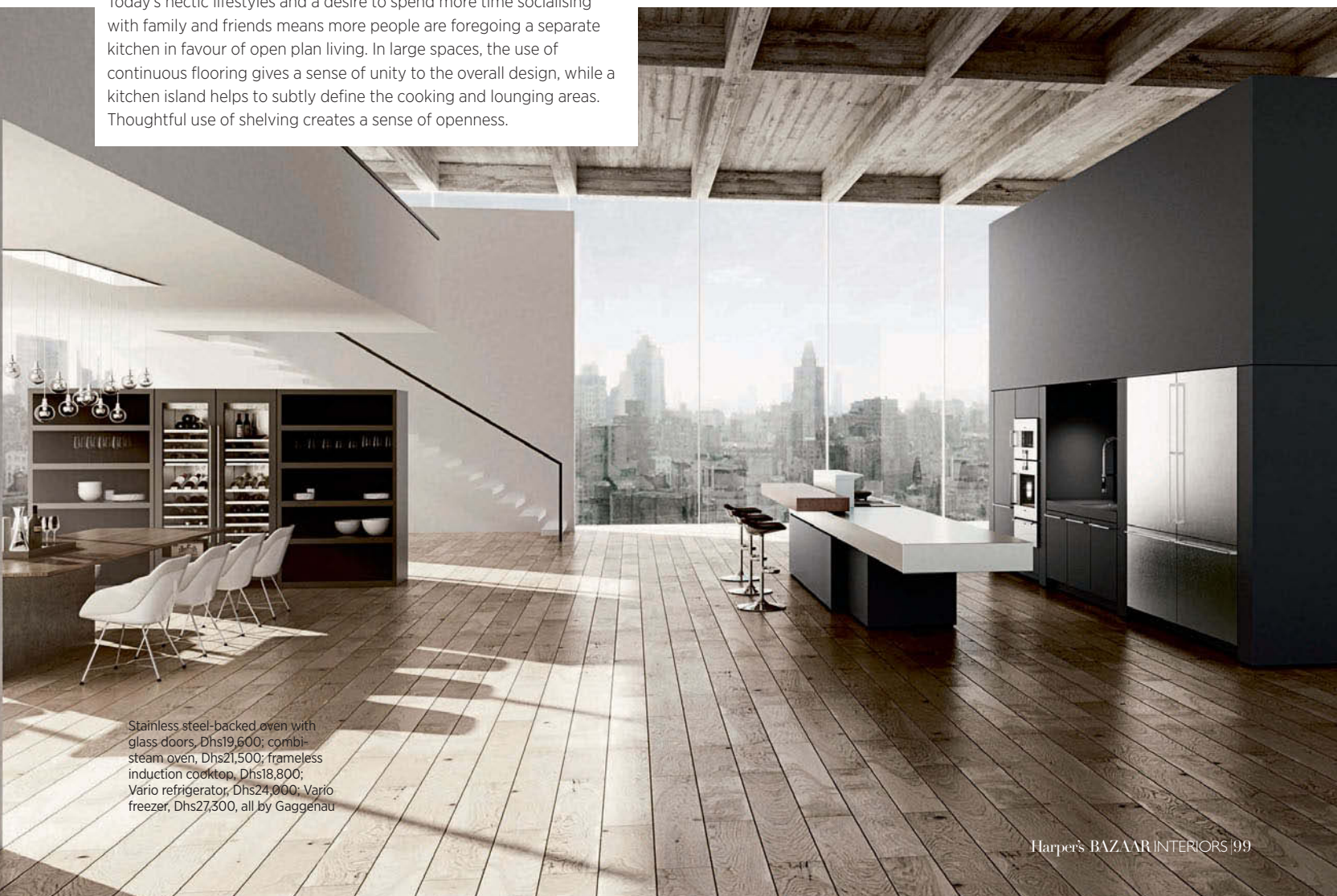
Tara classic series kitchen fitting, from Dhs8,345, Cyprum by Dornbracht



Silestone worktop
in Haiku, from
Dhs400 per square
metre, Cosentino

NO BOUNDARIES

Today's hectic lifestyles and a desire to spend more time socialising with family and friends means more people are foregoing a separate kitchen in favour of open plan living. In large spaces, the use of continuous flooring gives a sense of unity to the overall design, while a kitchen island helps to subtly define the cooking and lounging areas. Thoughtful use of shelving creates a sense of openness.



Stainless steel-backed oven with
glass doors, Dhs19,600; combi-
steam oven, Dhs21,500; frameless
induction cooktop, Dhs18,800;
Vario refrigerator, Dhs24,000; Vario
freezer, Dhs27,300, all by Gaggenau



Bespoke Heritage hand-painted oak kitchen, from Dhs170,600, Mowlem & Co

ISLAND BRIGHTS

The island is the sociable hub of the kitchen, so make it an eye-catching feature. Neutral cabinetry and flooring allow a bright island to shine; choose colours with a similar tone, such as blues and greys, or opt for a bold, higher contrast accent. To make the space work even harder, consider separating the preparation area and eating space by creating a two-level island.



Bespoke kitchen, from Dhs227,600, Bryan Turner Kitchen Furniture

PERSONAL TOUCH

Serious home cooks should consider investing in state-of-the-art bespoke appliances. Custom ranges and cooktops can be designed and built to suit all needs; choose everything from griddles, deep fryers and pasta cookers to undercounter refrigeration, ovens and warming drawers.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Take advantage of the UAE's warm climate and install an alfresco bathing area. Privacy is key, so converting a private garden or terrace accessed from the master bedroom into an outdoor bathroom makes perfect sense. Design materials need to stand up to all weather conditions, so acrylic, stone and galvanised metals are good choices for outdoor bath tubs.

Lotus stone
bathtub,
Dhs8,995,
Apaiser at
Bagnodesign



Earth flooring and Chelsea flooring made of Bianco Carrara marble, Nespoli e Novara; SPA bathtub made of Basaltina stone, and Nest wash basin made of Bianco Carrara marble, both Nespoli e Novara; Plana shelf made of Basaltina stone, CRS; from Dhs83,500, Neutra

IN THE ROUND

Instead of the usual rectangle or square, a round mirror over the vanity gives a playful quirkiness to an otherwise utilitarian space. For optimal impact, mount a series of the reflective beauties in varying sizes. Or position on a backdrop of patterned wallpaper to give the space a sense of Gothic drama.



Axor Starck Organic wash basin in standard chrome finish designed by Philippe Starck, Dhs1,750, Axor

CLEAN LINES

For a chic, understated look, keep it simple with minimalist white bathroom furniture. Floating a streamlined vanity off the floor by eliminating cupboards or legs is an effective way of giving the feeling of more space. For bathtubs, consider models made from composite materials; lightweight and available in matte or gloss finishes, the products' flexibility allows for cutting edge design.



Geo washplane,
Dhs11,500,
Omvivo at Purity



Dune bath tub made of
Cristalplant designed
by Mario Ferrarini,
Dhs41,725; Canto Del
Fuoco fireplace made
of Corten designed by
Domenico de Palo, Dhs
35,047, Antonio Lupi

Silver mirror, Dhs2,145; London console basin stand with glass shelf, Dhs9,110; Kew back to wall WC, Dhs6,250; Original bath shower mixer, Dhs5,415; Winchester free standing bath, Dhs5,950; all at C. P. Hart. For similar wood flooring, go to Lanitis Aristophanous

Inside Patrick Blanc's home

TOUCH WOOD

Traditionally real wood parquet flooring was unable to be installed in the bathroom due to the material's intolerance to water and humidity. But recent innovations in technology mean it is now a realistic option, with pre-oiled strips in species such as merbau, acacia and teak providing enhanced moisture resistance due to their low shrinkage and swelling potential.

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ENTERTAIN

Wellness WARRIOR

*Chronic illness prompted
ELLA WOODWARD to
adopt a plant-based diet. Now
her healthy eating blog and
book are inspiring us all*



“MY AIM IS TO SHOW THAT VEGETABLES ARE SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN PEOPLE THINK”

Ella Woodward, cookbook author

In a world full of tempting delights such as cronuts, gourmet burgers and lobster mac ‘n’ cheese it takes something - or someone - special to turn plant-based eating into the hottest new food trend. It’s exactly what 23-year-old London-based internet sensation Ella Woodward has done with her powerful story of overcoming illness through diet, which has inspired people around the world to ditch the naughty stuff and put vegetables firmly at the centre of their cooking.

Until four years ago, Ella was a self-confessed sugar monster, living on a diet of Ben and Jerry’s Cookie Dough ice cream, gummy sweets and milk chocolate. But after returning to study at the University of St Andrews in 2011 after a summer modelling in Paris, Ella’s health deteriorated rapidly; she was in chronic pain and slept for 16 hours a day.

Ella was eventually diagnosed with Postural Tachycardia Syndrome, a rare illness that attacks the autonomic nervous system. Unable to walk down the street and virtually bedridden, Ella turned to Google for help. “I was on so much medication and it wasn’t working so I started researching alternative healing,” she explains to *Bazaar Interiors*. “I found other people who had been sick and used diet as a cure. I thought, ‘If it works for them, what have I got to lose?’” Inspired by American cancer survivor and author Kris Carr, who adopted a vegan plant-based diet in response to her diagnosis, Ella changed her way of eating overnight, ditching all meat, dairy, eggs, gluten, refined sugar and processed foods. Her new menu consisted of porridge, buckwheat toast with avocado and brown rice pasta, and while she slowly began to feel better, she became bored with her monotonous eating regime. “I was a terrible cook,” she recalls. “Before my diagnosis I didn’t eat any fruit or vegetables, so I had to introduce myself to new things and make myself try them.”

Ella began documenting her kitchen adventures at Deliciously Ella, the blog she initially started in secret. After she began sharing it with family and friends, word soon spread and Ella now presides over a burgeoning media empire; the blog gets a staggering 2.5 million hits a month, she has amassed 323,000 Instagram followers and 38,000 fans on Twitter. Her recipe app released last year has been downloaded over 80,000 times. Her first cookbook, *Deliciously Ella*, was released in January 2015 and achieved the highest first week sales for a debut cookbook since records began and, at the time of going to press, has been the number one best-seller on Amazon for five weeks. Not bad for someone previously addicted to Haribo sweets.

“The message of the book is that healthy eating shouldn’t be about deprivation,” she says. “If I say, ‘I’m going to make you a gluten-free, vegetarian meal,’ people panic and think it sounds terrible. My main aim is to show that vegetables are so much more interesting than people think.” A case in point is the blog’s most popular recipe for sweet potato brownies, which are even more delicious than the usual sugar-laden variety.



EAT LIKE ELLA

Deliciously Ella by Ella Woodward. Published by Yellow Kite, Dh130, available at Kinokuniya, Dubai Mall.



Ella’s inspiring Instagram photos have garnered her 323,000 followers and counting...

While most recipes could be classified as vegan, Ella prefers to avoid the label. “It’s a terrible word to use because it’s so exclusive and makes people run in the opposite direction,” she says. “It means you can’t eat honey... Well I eat lots of honey.” She encourages her readers to adapt the recipes to suit their own lifestyle. “I’ve got friends that add feta to the beetroot risotto and that’s great. Add chicken to the curry. You can eat a Deliciously Ella meal twice a week and whatever else the rest of the time. If you just start making small changes it will be awesome.”

While others can opt in and out, for Ella, reverting to her old ways is not an option. “While I’ve been really healthy and medication free for the last year and a half, my body still reacts to those foods so I have to be very careful in a way I wouldn’t necessarily recommend for everyone else.” Yet despite the apparent limitations, she finds her way of eating easy. “The main misconception is that I sit here just eating salad,” she says. “It’s more that I crave different foods. If I want to overindulge in sweet things, I’ll polish off a tray of sweet potato brownies. If I want to overeat at dinner, I’ll have way too much veggie curry. It just doesn’t cross my mind to eat a steak.” Eating out can be a challenge, but Ella has learned to adapt. “If I go to an Italian restaurant, I take my own pasta and they are happy to cook it with sauce.”

A keen exerciser, Ella’s healthy lifestyle doesn’t stop at eating. “It’s my worst nightmare to run on a treadmill so to keep it interesting I do boxing, spinning, Pilates and yoga.” She is also cautious about beauty products. “When I first started getting interested in what I was putting in my body, I started getting interested in what I was putting on it. I became aware of all the things that are added to beauty products so I started making my own.”

With her legions of followers around the globe devouring every new recipe and Twitter update, how does Ella feel about being the poster girl for a healthy lifestyle? “I love it,” she says. “It’s an honour to be able to inspire people to do things that make them feel good. There’s nothing better than waking up in the morning thinking, ‘yeah, I can do this!’” *Deliciouslyella.com*

WARM WINTER SALAD Serves 4

This salad was one of the first recipes I created for the book and I've been coming back to it time and time again ever since. I just love the mix of flavours and textures here, from the wilted spinach and roasted aubergine to the crunchy pine nuts, sweet sun-dried tomatoes and creamy tahini sauce. It's a pretty filling dish, but if you're feeling really hungry, then try serving it with some brown rice or quinoa with a little lemon drizzled over. It's one of my favourite meals to make for friends when I'm after an easy kitchen supper and it's always such a winner.

4 small aubergines (600g)
olive oil
1 tablespoon dried mixed herbs (I love herbes de Provence)
2 bags of spinach (about 500g)
4 tablespoons tahini
juice of 1 lime
2 mugs sun-dried tomatoes (360g)
1 mug pine nuts (100g)
salt and pepper

TOP TIP

"Watch out for the ingredients of sun-dried tomatoes - they can often contain lots of sugars and preservatives. If you can only find these ones, then rinse them in boiling water before using them"

aubergines finish, place the spinach into a large frying pan with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and allow it to wilt. Once it's wilted, add the tahini, lime juice and sun-dried tomatoes.

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (fan 180°C) and slice the aubergines into thin strips about 7.5mm thick. Place the strips on a baking tray with a generous amount of olive oil, the dried herbs, salt and pepper. Bake for 20 minutes.

2. About 5 minutes before the

3. In a separate pan, toast the pine nuts for a minute or two, being sure not to let them burn - they don't need any oil to cook as they contain enough of their own oil.

4. Add the aubergine and pine nuts to the spinach pan and mix well before serving.



TOP TIP

"Dried pulses (such as chickpeas) need to be soaked for four to six hours then cooked. Tinned pulses are easier, just open the tin, drain and rinse. Once these are open, they need to be stored in the fridge"

Simply place all of the ingredients into a food processor with 3 tablespoons water and blend until smooth; it's really that easy! The stronger your food processor, the smoother and creamier the hummus will be. Store it in an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week.

BEETROOT HUMMUS

1 quantity of classic hummus (recipe above)

1 small raw beetroot (150g), peeled and chopped

Place the hummus and beetroot in a food processor and blend until smooth and creamy.

ROASTED RED PEPPER AND PAPRIKA HUMMUS

2 large red peppers

1 quantity of classic hummus (recipe above)

½ jalapeño pepper (add more or less depending on how spicy you like it)

2 teaspoons paprika

1. Preheat the oven to 210°C (fan 190°C). Start by slicing the red peppers into about eight long strips, discarding the seedy centre part. Place these strips on a baking tray and bake for 10 minutes until they begin to brown slightly.
2. Once the pepper has cooked and is starting to turn over so slightly brown at the edges, remove from the oven and allow to cool for a couple of minutes.
3. Add the pepper to the food processor with the hummus, jalapeño pepper and paprika and blend until smooth.

THREE TYPES OF HUMMUS

Makes 1 large bowl

I could honestly live off hummus! I love that you can eat it with anything, from crudité to quinoa bowls, simple salads and, of course, spread over toast with some avocado. It adds a great protein boost to your meal too. Since I eat it so much, I like to vary the flavours, so I've shared my three favourites with you here: Classic, Beetroot, and Roasted Red Pepper and Paprika.

CLASSIC HUMMUS

2 x 400g tins of chickpeas, drained (or 450g drained chickpeas if you're soaking and boiling your own)

10 tablespoons olive oil

juice of 2 juicy lemons

2 heaped tablespoons tahini

3 cloves of garlic, peeled

2 teaspoons ground cumin salt and pepper



KEY LIME PIE Serves 10 - 12

This Key Lime Pie is one of the more adventurous recipes in the book and I'm sure that as you look at the ingredients list, you'll be questioning whether or not it really does taste good; so you're going to have to trust me that it does taste wonderful. The avocado and coconut milk together make the dessert insanely creamy, while the lime gives it a fantastically fresh flavour and the maple syrup adds some delicious sweetness. Don't worry, you can't taste the avocado in it at all!

FOR THE BASE:

2 mugs almonds (400g)
about 30 Medjool dates (600g), pitted
2 tablespoons coconut oil

FOR THE MIDDLE:

5 very ripe avocados
juice of 3 limes (30ml)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ mug maple syrup (225ml)
4 tablespoons coconut milk (I take the tablespoons from the solid part of the milk in the tin, not the liquid part)
1 more lime, to grate

FOR THE BASE

1. Start by making the base. Place the almonds into a food processor and blend for a minute or so until they break down into pieces (not as smooth as a flour though).
2. Add the dates to the food processor with the coconut oil and blend again, until the dates have all been crushed and the mix is sticky.
3. Use a spatula to press the almond and date mix firmly into a 20 - 25cm cake tin - the base should be about 2 - 3cm thick and very compact. Leave to one side while you make the middle.

FOR THE MIDDLE

4. Scoop the flesh out of the avocados, discarding the stones, and place all the flesh into your food processor. Add in the lime juice, maple syrup and coconut milk and blend until the mix is totally smooth and creamy.
5. Pour the mix onto the base and place the cake tin in the freezer to set for about an hour and a half - you want it to be firm but not frozen!
6. Once you're ready to serve, grate the zest of the remaining lime over the top of the pie.



L'art de VIVRE

MARINA DE COATGOUREDEN *knows a little something about parties. Here she explains how timeless treasures can make for a precious party*

PRIVATE GUESTS' BECOMING PREVALENT **PARTIES HOMES ARE INCREASINGLY**

for purposes other than the usual socialising, conversation, dinner and dancing at specific celebrations such as birthdays. What we are seeing is an escalation of people hosting events, in fact, to show off their collectables – a 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' scenario (without lions and witches!) where cabinet collectables, classic cars and

ceramic china lose their functional purpose and become museum or gallery artefacts to appreciate. For many individuals who amass collections, the value is not monetary, but rather emotional. Collections allow us to relive our childhood, connect to a period of time in history and keep the past present. Some collect for the thrill of the hunt – a quest, a lifelong pursuit that can never be complete.

Collections enable experimenting with arranging, organising and presenting a part of the world which may mean something to you, creating a 'personal peace' – these motives are not mutually exclusive, different drivers combine in each collector for a multitude of reasons.

COLLECTIONS ARE PRIZED POSSESSIONS, ONES THAT THE OWNER WANTS, ALMOST NEEDS, TO SHOW OFF. People will do and

collect almost anything and of course, there is always an occasion to celebrate without reason. Organise a tea party and instead of going out, bring this



Daisy Tea set, Dhs2,100, Wedgwood

sweet experience into your home. Darling vintage tea sets create the perfect setting for afternoon parties and high teas. Of course, you don't have to use your grandmother's finest – instead, sip tea surrounded by cabinets of fashionably displayed vintage tea sets; tea cups, tea pots, tea trays, the lot. English bone china is especially admired for its lightness, translucency and its soft, subtle, almost pearly white quality. If you're feeling particularly adventurous serve your guests a selection of artisanal cocktails in these charmingly vintage sets. Whether

it's an Earl Grey-infused syrup and orange zest, berry mix or classic mint concoction you're after, a tea party with a twist will go down a treat and the rest... well, they'll enjoy the unpredictable tipple.

TABLE ORNAMENTS, CUTE NAPKIN HOLDERS, flower-filled sugar bowls, gorgeous vintage crystal vases or delicate place settings can all be considered 'contemporary collectables'. Think outside the box; I have recently been inspired by The Dinner Club 57 who, at one dining event, gave complimentary, hand stitched Fendi clutches to their guests... Absolutely my kind of service. Interactive parties are always the most entertaining, and all guests love a goodie bag. On the flip-side, there are many other occasions where you can use your collected items as an event itself. Think of an underground 'rave' in your garage; the perfect opportunity to show off your car collection. Let guests take a seat in your Aston Martin or perhaps you could really turn the heat up by creating a racing competition – with go-karts, obviously.

Tableware by
Rockett St George

Placemat,
Dhs425, Zaha
Hadid

Coasters,
Dhs250,
Jonathan
Adler

Dessert plates,
Dhs29 each,
The One

Glasses,
Dhs2,844, by
Artel at White
Almonds

Marble
chopping
board, Dhs115,
Bodie and
Fou

Cotton
blanket,
Dhs149,
H&M

Ceramic
vases, Dhs40,
Rockett St
George

ZESTY FLAVOUR

*A splash of citrus adds
drama to classic
monochrome*

Plates,
Dhs865,
Sieger by
Fürstenberg
at White
Almonds

Pitchers,
from Dhs105,
Rometti

Waste paper
bin, Dhs989,
Nada Debs

Candle,
Dhs29,
H&M

Beach bungalows at Eden Beach Club. Below: The swim-up pool bar

EDEN BEACH CLUB

There are two distinct sides to Eden Beach Club. Situated at Rixos the Palm, by day it has a relaxed vibe with a chilled crowd lounging in beach-front bungalows, stand up paddle boarding or dining on sushi and whole grilled snapper at the terrace restaurant. As the sun starts to set, the atmosphere changes as Dubai's glamorous party crowd arrives to take advantage of the club's impressive credentials; think swim-up pool bar, cabanas with individual plunge pools, plus a line-up that includes top international DJs such as Above & Beyond, Steve Aoki and Sasha. Edenbeachclub.com



CAFE NO. 57

Missed out on the most sought after dinner invite in town? Don't worry - the team behind invitation-only Dinner Club by No. 57 have just launched hotly anticipated Café No. 57 in Al Marasy, Abu Dhabi. Overlooking the water, this boutique café is already a firm favourite with locals looking for leisurely weekend brunch, lunch and dinners. We loved the exposed ceilings, serene scandi-chic décor and eclectic collection of accessories scattered around the airy space. The carefully curated menu showcases the freshest of ingredients: piquant tuna tartare on a bite of crispy rice; creamy burrata with picked basil; and wild mushrooms parcelled with tiny new potatoes. All perfectly prepared in Chef Gavin Gleeson's open kitchen. If you're in the mood to indulge don't miss Abu Dhabi's best burger (yes, really), encased in a meltingly soft bun. And if you haven't heard about the Toffee Skillet Cookie dessert yet... Well, you will. No57.co



Café No. 57's Scandi-chic interior. Top: the café's banoffee pie

TOP TABLES

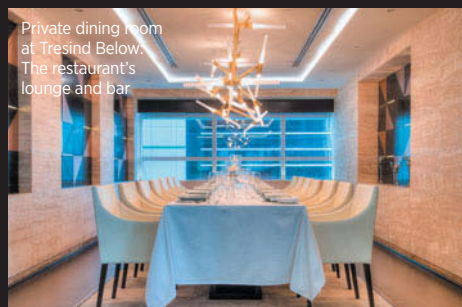
The definitive guide to the region's coolest new restaurant, beach club and café openings

Bazaar Loves...

TRESIND

The main thing that comes to mind when Indian cuisine is on the menu is the spices. But Tresind takes traditional Indian fare to the next level by giving its signature dishes an unexpected twist of molecular gastronomy that will satisfy even the most

Private dining room at Tresind Below. The restaurant's lounge and bar



adventurous foodies. The contemporary interior of the restaurant and lounge, located at the Radisson Royal Hotel on Sheikh Zayed Road, is a visual translation of Tresind's

approach to cooking; it's fine dining mastered by the French, with the authentic essence of India. Dishes such as daulat ki chaat are presented as if works of art; a trolley is wheeled table-side, where the waiter uses liquid nitrogen to create a flavourful masterpiece. Other highlights include wild mushroom chai served in a teapot with truffle powder and decadent lobster masala. Tresind.com





Salmon sashimi at Okku

OKKU

Despite the plethora of options available, we're all guilty of getting stuck in a brunch rut, opting for the same fail-safe venue when Friday rolls around. Shake things up by heading down to Okku's recently launched Disco Sushi at The H Dubai, Sheikh Zayed Road. The '80s themed afternoon kicks off with an hour long cocktail reception, before diners sit down to a selection of bespoke Japanese dishes. Sample favourites such as wasabi rock shrimp and yuzu-saikyo miso black cod, as well as an abundant sushi platter, while singing along to a soundtrack of classic '80s tunes. The restaurant's sleek monochrome decor is given an ironic Miami Vice twist with a neon jellyfish tank, plus pink fibre optic curtain. We love the nostalgic attention to detail given by way of Monopoly money, glow sticks, fluro sunglasses and snap bands for every guest. Okku.com



Seaview terrace at Sea Fu

SEA FU

In terms of location, it's second to none. The luxury hotel brand's first foray into the UAE, the new Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach occupies a prime spot on a 270-metre stretch of pristine white sand. While beach and pool access is for hotel guests only, it's possible to sample the idyllic location by dining at terrace restaurant, Sea Fu. The stunning venue, perched on the private beach, has an open kitchen, live fish tank and lounge areas. Executive chef Gilles Arzur, a French native who has come to Dubai straight from the luxurious Beverly Wilshire, California, has devised a menu that serves both Asian and Mediterranean treatments of seasonal seafood (the name Sea Fu riffs on sifu, Cantonese for 'master', and 'seafood'). But rather than fusing the two cuisines, the menu features authentic dishes from both sides, such as classically French seafood bouillabaisse and ocean fresh salt crusted fish. Seafudubai.com



Sea Fu's beachside lounge area



Asia de Cuba's eclectic interior

ASIA DE CUBA

It's not often a chef describes the cuisine of his home country as, "a bit boring". But by combining the hearty ingredients of his native Cuba with the innovative flavours and spices of Asian cuisine, executive chef Luis Pous has created a contemporary chino-latino fusion menu that's anything but dull. Opened in January, the Abu Dhabi outpost of the famed London restaurant boasts a waterfront location at the St. Regis Nation Towers Beachfront on the Corniche. We suggest starting with an expertly mixed cocktail on the outdoor terrace before moving into the Ian Baylis designed interior - a heady mix of Cuban décor, classic Italian furniture and statement lighting. Highlights from the extensive menu include the scallop ceviche with grapefruit, aji panca and lime, while the decadent shrimp churros with sesame and coconut curry offer a surprisingly tasty savoury take on the traditionally sweet dish. Asiadecuba.com



FASHIONABLE FOOD

Dubai-based blogger **KAREN MCLEAN** *talks food trucks, farmers' markets and recipe failures*

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO START YOUR BLOG?



I've been cooking for years so one day I decided to start putting my photos on Instagram and Secret Squirrel Food was born. I'm overwhelmed by all the lovely comments I receive daily. It always puts a smile on my face.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FOR YOUR RECIPES?

If I'm not thinking about food, I'm cooking or I'm eating. I'm always trying to make food healthier and I love sneaking vegetables and greens in wherever I can. The puzzled reaction on people's faces when I tell them that the ingredients are actually good for them makes me giggle every

time and inspires me to cook. Secret Squirrel is my heart, my soul and I put everything I love into it.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST POPULAR RECIPE?

My raw vanilla coconut fig slice. A walnut fig base, layered with a vanilla coconut cashew cream, topped with fresh fig slices... It's completely raw, vegan, sugar-free, dairy-free, gluten-free and absolutely drool-worthy! It's so delicious, you wouldn't even know it's healthy.

ANY EPIC RECIPE FAILURES?

I once tried to make a kiwi lime cheesecake and it went horribly wrong. I love experimenting and sometimes the recipe doesn't go so well and other times, it's an absolute success. You will often find me dancing in the kitchen and high-fiving the air because I'm so happy with what I've just cooked.

HOW HAS THE FOODIE SCENE CHANGED IN THE UAE?

There is a growing demand for healthy eating options. With an increasing trend for using locally sourced ingredients and fresh organic produce, a number of amazing cafes and restaurants are now serving nutritious and wholesome food. You will often find me at the farmers' market at Emirates Towers on Friday mornings to pick up local organic produce and then at Zabeel Park for the Ripe Market.

WHAT NEW FOOD TREND IN THE UAE EXCITES YOU RIGHT NOW?

Food trucks... I love the up-and-coming street food concepts popping up. Social media plays a strong role in the local food truck success and it's great to see the UAE embracing the trend. It's also fun going food truck hunting.

WHAT ARE YOUR DUBAI FOODIE HOTSPOTS?

I love Tom & Serg; it's one of the city's coolest cafes and serves the best coffee in town. What I love most is that it reminds me of home in Melbourne.

My favourite healthy eatery is Comptoir 102 and I love Chez Sushi. It's a Japanese restaurant where you can custom build your own perfect sushi. If I want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city I love chilling out at The Farm, Al Barari.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MEAL?

It has to be my dad's Vietnamese pho. It consists of the yummiest bowl of fragrant broth, cooked for hours and hours. In fact, every meal at my parent's house is memorable. Nothing beats home cooking and you can't find it anywhere else in the world.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR YOU?

I hope to continue to be a food inspiration and encourage everyone to lead a happier and healthier lifestyle. I'm working on a number of exciting projects, but they are still a secret for now, so stay tuned.

Secretsquirrelfood.com

GLUTEN-FREE BAKED DONUTS

Makes 12 donuts

INGREDIENTS:

Gluten-free Donuts

- 1½ cup almond meal
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ cup coconut sugar
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup mashed ripe banana
- ¼ cup milk of choice (almond, soy, coconut)
- 1 egg (whisked)
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- ½ tsp vanilla bean paste

Nutella Frosting

- 1 cup hazelnuts
- ⅓ cup coconut milk (full cream)
- ¼ cup agave syrup or maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste
- 2 tbsp raw cacao powder

DIRECTIONS:

Gluten-free Donuts

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Add almond meal, baking soda, coconut sugar, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon to a large bowl.
3. Separately, combine mashed banana, milk, egg, maple syrup, and vanilla bean paste. Fold wet and dry ingredients together until combined.
4. Carefully pour mixture into 12 donut tins.
5. Bake in the oven for 12 minutes and let it cool after cooking.

Nutella Frosting

6. Lower the oven temp. to 160°C and roast hazelnuts for approx. 10 minutes – be careful not to burn!
7. Let it cool. Rub hazelnuts together in a paper towel to remove skins.
8. In a food processor, blend hazelnuts until they become nut butter.
9. Blend remaining ingredients until smooth.

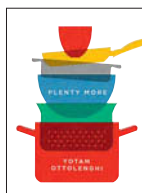
Assembly

10. Using a butter knife, frost each donut with the Nutella frosting.
11. Be creative. Decorate your donuts with dried fruit, nuts and seeds!

SECRET SQUIRREL FOOD'S MUST-HAVES



Chia seeds, Dhs30, Organic Foods and Cafe



Plenty More by Yotam Ottolenghi, Dhs130, Ebury Press



Spiralizer, Dhs240, Galeries Lafayette



Weck Jars, Dhs22, Crate and Barrel



SUN SEEKERS

With the weather pretty much perfect at the moment, there's nothing we enjoy more than an afternoon spent lazing in the sun. Located at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Cove Beach is a newly launched beach club with a gourmet restaurant serving delectable French and Italian dishes. We think super-sized sunbeds, shisha and an extensive seafood menu sounds like a day well spent. Covebeach.com



DATE FOR THE DIARY

Don't miss the ninth edition of Art Dubai taking place from March 18 – 21



SHIP SHAPE

Taking inspiration from New York, London and Paris, Boxpark is made up of an eye-catching line-up of 220 shipping and industrial containers. Set to become Dubai's hippest new urban destination, it's located in Jumeirah on Al Wasl Road and features a variety of quirky dining concepts including retro Italian ice cream store Dri Dri, along with retail boutiques and parks. Boxpark.ae

ENTERTAIN Indulge in the season's latest delights NEWS



CATCH OF THE YEAR

Located in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, Catch attracts an A-list crowd including Jay-Z and Beyoncé, who are fans of the seafood cuisine prepared by chef Hung Huynh, winner of US cooking show *Top Chef*. Now UAE foodies have the chance to sample the

restaurant's mammoth menu with the opening of the first international outpost of the Catch brand at The Fairmont Dubai this April. Following its American counterpart, Catch Dubai will feature an open kitchen and shareable plates; think crab, salmon and miso sushi or salmon belly carpaccio. Emmgrp.com



COUNT US IN We're very excited about the opening this month of Al Quoz favourite Tom & Serg's latest concept, *The Sum of Us*. Located near the World Trade Centre, the new location features a sourdough bakery, gourmet café and coffee roastery. Credited with revolutionising Dubai's café culture, we'll be visiting the massive new space as soon it opens to indulge in the perfect flat white. Thesumofusdubai.com

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artists Tim
Noble and Sue
Webster at the
Semiramis hotel,
Athens

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*Hotels with world-class art collections
that let you skip the gallery*

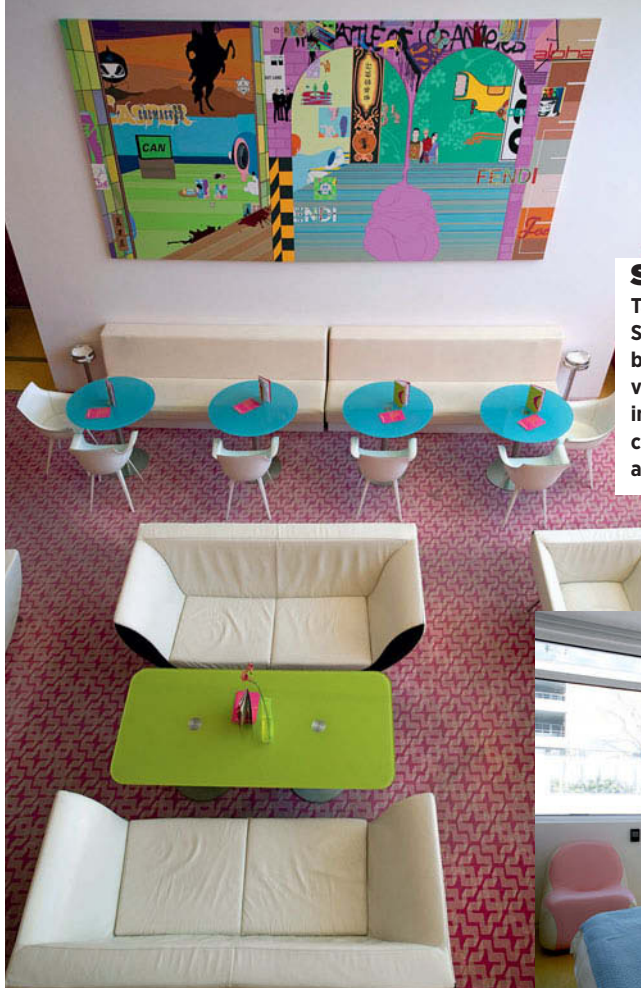
Words by LAURA BROWN

ATHENS, GREECE

Semiramis

With its lollipop bright interior and bold art work, the phrase, 'Like a kid in a candy store' pops instantly to mind when entering the lobby of the Semiramis hotel, part of the Yes! Hotels group. Located in the affluent and leafy suburb of Kifissia, Athens, the 51 room boutique hotel is the colourful brainchild of designer Karim Rashid and owner Dakis Joannou, who wanted a public setting to showcase his love for provocative contemporary art. Competing for attention with the acid pink, lime green and turquoise interior are works by artists such as Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami and Su-En Wong. Overlooking the swimming pool is the Mediterranean restaurant, the ideal location for sipping cocktails while listening to the in-house DJ.

From Dhs630 per night; Yeshotels.gr



SHUT UP...

Taking pride of place in the Semiramis Hotel foyer Shutup by Michael Bevilacqua is a visual diary of his artistic influences including album covers, fashion house logos and cartoon characters.



BEIJING, CHINA Hotel Éclat

Think Centre Pompidou meets the Pyramids in 21st century Beijing. The stunning glass empire is home to original sculptures and paintings from Western art greats such as Salvador Dalí, Pierre Matter and Andy Warhol alongside Eastern artists such as Chen Wen Ling, Gao Xiao Wu and Zou Liang. The works are thoughtfully positioned throughout the public and guest rooms of the boutique hotel, emphasising the building's unique design. The hotel's slick interior features metal, glass and wooden architectural details, whilst warm reds and darker colours set the tone for relaxing after hours. Ideal for both business and leisure travellers alike, all 100 rooms are equipped with high speed internet, Wi-Fi and a 24 hour butler service, while 20 luxurious suites offer guests their own private outdoor pool. *From Dhs1,060 per night; Eclathotels.com/beijing*



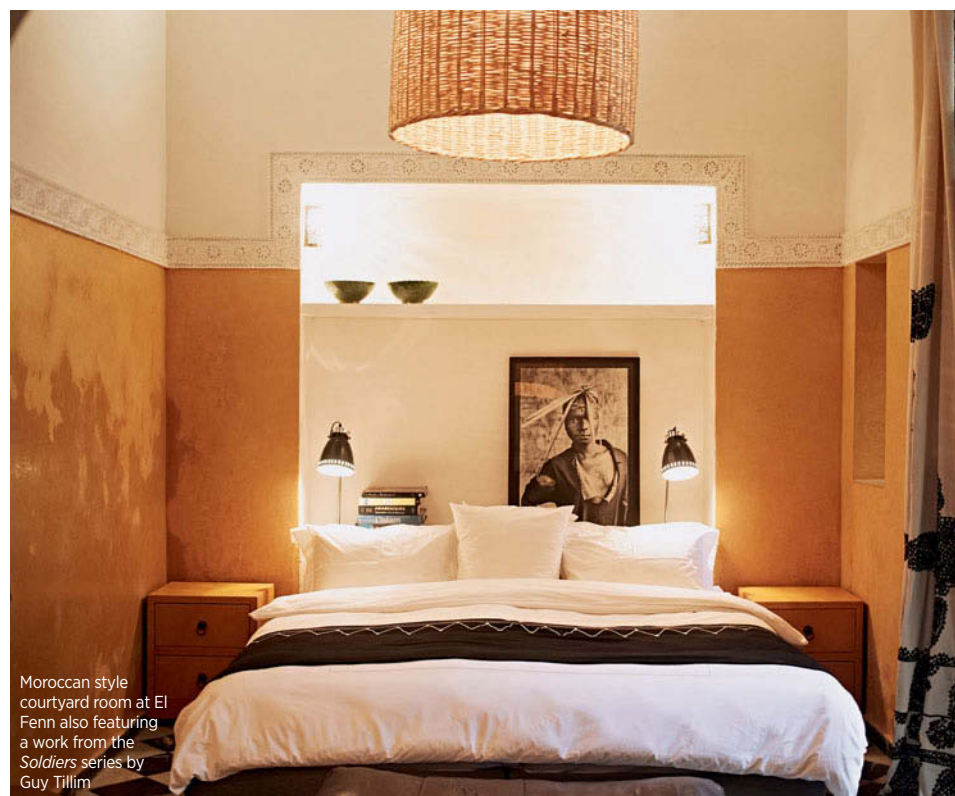
The opulent Miami Suite at the Hotel Éclat, Beijing, China

FACE FORWARD

Black and white portraits of Congolese boy soldiers by Guy Tillim decorate the walls outside the El Fenn restaurant. The photographer started his career as a reporter, but soon traded his pen for a camera to capture powerful images of the troubled region of Africa



Soldiers by
Guy Tillim,
2002



Moroccan style
courtyard room at El
Fenn also featuring
a work from the
Soldiers series by
Guy Tillim

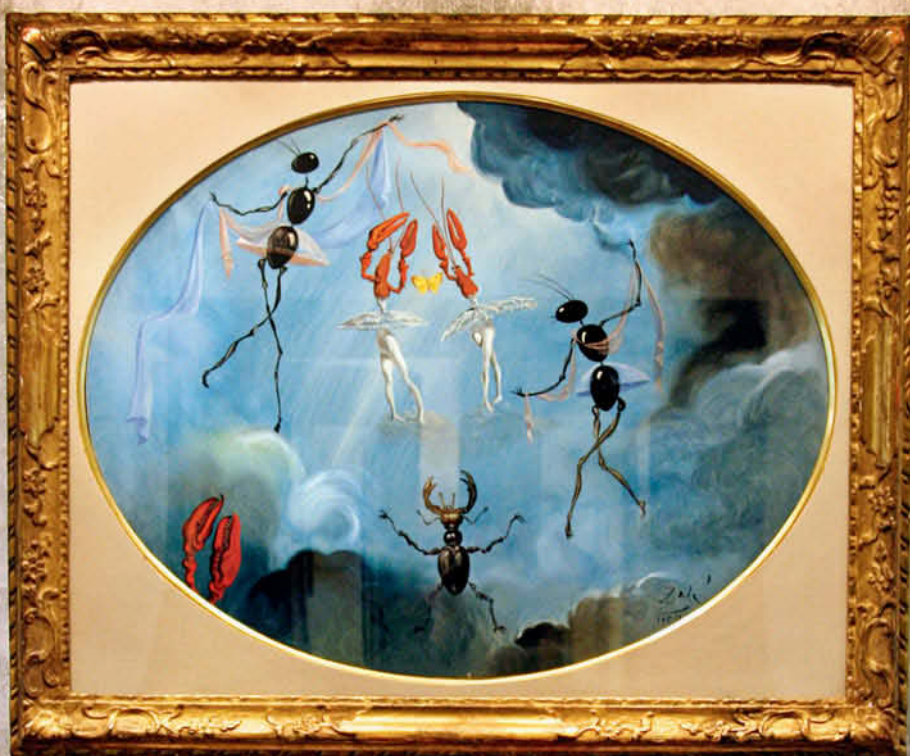
PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID LOFTUS

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

El Fenn

Behind an unassuming doorway in the heart of the bustling Marrakesh medina, El Fenn is an art-filled boutique hotel centred round a lush sun-bathed courtyard. Gracing the jewel-coloured walls is an impressive collection of works by the likes of Bridget Riley, Fred Pollock and Hassan Hajjaj, all part of former gallerist and co-owner Vanessa Branson's extensive private art collection. The 28-room property underwent a full refurbishment last year and the results are spectacular; a unique blend of Moorish architecture and modern design, the richly decorated rooms feature kilim covered beds, vivid tadelakt bathrooms and hand carved ceilings. In the courtyard, two Carrara marble-lined pools are surrounded by day-beds and a fire-pit, while the rooftop boasts a third pool, Berber-tented lounging area and some of the best views in town, including of the Atlas mountains. *From Dhs735 per night; El-fenn.com*

*Femmes
métamorphosées*
by Salvador Dalí,
1957



SURREALIST GUEST

Salvador Dalí himself loved spending time in hotels; each year he rented a suite at Le Meurice, Paris, for a month.

His behaviour there could often be surrealistic; he once demanded a herd of sheep be brought to his room, which he shot with a gun filled with blank bullets. Another time, he requested a horse

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Dolder Grand

As art aficionados breathe in the fresh mountain air on arrival at The Dolder Grand, the luxury five star Zurich retreat welcomes with open arms. Making a bold first impression in the lobby is one of Andy Warhol's largest works, *Big Retrospective Painting*, 1979/1980 which hangs over the front desk. It's just one of more than 100 (and counting) museum-worthy artworks, mainly from the private collection of Urs Schwarzenbach, which represent an eclectic array of styles, genres and periods. Guests can borrow an iPad from reception for a self-guided tour of painted works by Marc Quinn and sculpture by Keith Haring, while those dining in two-Michelin-starred, The Restaurant, will be treated to a Salvador Dalí, a Gerhard Richter and four Camille Pissarro paintings.

From Dhs2,140 per night; TheDolderGrand.com



Lexington Premier King room at the Gramercy Park Hotel

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

Gramercy Park Hotel

Set in one of the most coveted areas of Manhattan and providing exclusive access to New York City's only private park, the Gramercy's bohemian charm has attracted the world's artists, literati and intellectuals since it first opened its doors back in 1925. Redesigned in 2006 by Ian Schrager, with the support of legendary artist and film director Julian Schnabel, the hotel was transformed into an eclectic art-filled haven. The ever-changing collection favours contemporary American masters – think Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Tom Wesselmann – whose hallmarks include bold palettes, oversized imagery and the use of unconventional materials. The décor of the hotel's 185 rooms is unashamedly opulent with velvet-upholstered headboards, tapestry-covered chairs and leather-topped tables. The hotel is also home to a fantastic rooftop restaurant along with two lavish bars. *From Dhs1,570 per night; Gramercyparkhotel.com*

FLORENCE, ITALY

Four Seasons Hotel Firenze

Harking back to Florence's former glory, this luxury hotel on the edge of the city offers guests the rare opportunity to view historical artworks in their original context. Frescoes, bas-reliefs, stuccoes and silk wallpapers have been carefully restored to their original beauty after years of painstaking restoration. Occupying two restored Renaissance buildings – a 15th century palazzo and a 16th century convent – set within one of the largest Florentine gardens, the hotel's 116 bedrooms are highly decorated in warm Tuscan yellows and greens. One of the most impressive rooms is the Volterrano suite; the 19th century Chinese wallpaper depicting a scenic panorama of trailing flowers and exotic birds is a rare example of the nobility's historical fascination with all things Oriental. The Four Seasons is also home to Florence's only in-hotel spa, which uses the evocative Santa Maria Novella products, with formulas dating to the 13th century. *From Dhs2,280 per night; Fourseasons.com/Florence*



Royal Suite with a frescoed ceiling and original 18th century Capodimonte ceramic floor by Ignazio Chiaiese



Volterrano Suite with restored 19th century Chinese wallpaper and 17th century frescoes painted by Baldassare Franceschini

GOLD PLATED

For a unique view of Florence's modern day artisans, dine on the city's signature arch bridge, Ponte Vecchio. The hotel has exclusive access to the terrace overlooking jewellery boutique Dante Cardini, where guests can indulge in a meal featuring an unusual ingredient: gold



The main pool at the Six Senses, Zighy Bay, Oman. Below right: One of the hotel's private reserves with a pool

GRAND TOURER

If there's one way to travel in style this spring, it's in Bentley's new Continental GT V8, says RUE KOTHARI



If you're into conspicuous (fuel) consumption, then there's nothing that will catch the eye more than the quartzite glint of your new Bentley GTV8 as it cruises past passé Cayennes and boarish Range Rovers to make light work of the route to the Musandam Peninsula. It's the first stop on our weekend jaunt to Oman, a few days to soak up the serenity at the Six Senses Zighy Bay before trailing up the mountains to the Alila Jabal Akhdar to experience a very different landscape.

But it's not just about the destination. We're regulars at both hotels; the staff know us by first name and we're comfortable enough to walk through the door and dispense with shoes and formality just as quickly. This time it's all about the ride. And what a beast this Bentley is. Put the accelerator into full throttle and you'll hear it; a delicious rumble that seems to fill the cabin in one single, sumptuous moment. I believe it's what they call the thrill of the drive.

While the Bentley may be more ubiquitous

here than in most regions of the world, this doesn't in any way dilute the experience of driving one. This lean performance car is all about masculine good looks; the muscular haunches, determined front end with mesh grille and the famous winged-B fearlessly leading the way. Inside, you're cosseted in quilted red leather, cross-stitched by hand in contrast white with polished walnut dash, and with a console panel blessedly free of confusing technology. There won't be much here that you'll need to discover; the accent is on complete comfort. Because after all, if you're taking your Grand Tourer on a, well, grand tour, then it's unequivocally all about the visceral experience.

One thing it's important to

mention is that this is no family car. Don't plump for the GT version of the Continental if you trail hubby and three kids in your wake. Yes, they could theoretically fit; assuming Mr. You doesn't need maximum legroom and your kids are low on the BMI scale. This is 'hot couple' terrain. Despite the depth of the boot, it won't accommodate four suitcases, a stroller and a full complement of blow-up beach accoutrements. Instead, it's the perfect size for twin LV cases, plus a weekend bag or two.



Bentley Continental GT V8 in Orange Flame

Once you've programmed your sat-nav you're ready to go. The GT's drive experience is utterly seamless. The all-wheel drive gives you precision control and if you're too lazy to fiddle with the paddle shift, it's dream sailing all the way to Zighy Bay. Here's where you may want to watch it. The passage from the main



The villa pool overlooking the cliff at the Alila Jabal Akhdar hotel

mountain road to the entrance to the resort is rough and stony, and with a low profile car you may risk a few nicks on your paintwork; so make like the proverbial tortoise and take it slow and steady.

Door to door, the journey shouldn't take more than two hours, depending on how clogged the Corniche border control is. But on arrival, you're highly encouraged to take full advantage of the resort's particular brand of barefoot luxury. We suggest bagging one of the rustic bungalows that opens directly out onto the sea so you can lay in your pool, cocktail in hand and watch the sun set over the bay. The hotel can organise an in-villa barbeque if you're feeling lazy; the perfect way to prepare for a long drive the next day.

Six Senses is a spa brand, so we suggest opting for a signature massage after breakfast to ease you into the day – for you'll have a long drive to Nizwa, high up in the Jabal Akhdar mountains. The route can be a little tricky, but they are experts at providing driving directions, so don't be afraid to pass the buck. Our advice is to stock up on water and snacks for the journey; for once you finally arrive at Muscat, it's still another three hours to your destination – five hours in total. And don't forget to bring some music as there is little chance of radio transmission in the

mountains (the car has a CD changer – for those still stuck in the last century). If not – I'm sure there's an iPod dock somewhere, although after much searching we weren't able to find it.

There is one thing in the car that's definitely worth looking for. If you start to feel the burn of the long haul drive, fumble for the control panel of buttons on the left side of your seat, where you'll discover the massage function. The rolling electronic fingers will soon soothe away any motor stress. And if you're brave enough on the long open road that cuts through the dramatic desert landscape, then open up that throttle and notch up the speedometer. Top speed is 303kph – and while we certainly don't advocate breaking the speed limit, you would be remiss not to put this performance prowler through its paces. It's the most fun you'll have behind a wheel.

When you arrive at the hotel, you might finally be willing to hand over the keys to the valet (for the night at least), before plunging straight into the black granite infinity pool overlooking one of the most spectacularly rugged mountain ranges in the region.

Six Senses Zighy Bay from Dhs3,900 per night; Sixsenses.com. Alila Jabal Akhdar from Dhs1,380 per night; Alilahotels.com.

SCENIC DRIVES: MUST SEES



JEBEL HAFEET, AL AIN

The country's second largest mountain, standing tall at just over a kilometre, is only a 90-minute drive from Dubai. Situated south of the Al Ain border with Oman, an impressive highway leads up the mountain to a breathtaking view of the city. Best visited at sundown during the cooler months of the year, so make sure you bring a warm jacket.



SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE, ABU DHABI

The roads to Abu Dhabi may not be the region's most exciting, but it's worth the drive to visit the UAE's most spectacular mosque. Astonishing features include the world's largest mosque dome, the biggest hand-knotted carpet and a 12 ton Swarovski chandelier.



HERITAGE VILLAGE, FUJEIRAH

The emirate of Fujeirah is home to a 360 year old fort that lies on a hill surrounded by old town houses and fishing boats made from palm fronds. The road is level enough for a non 4x4 and, being only an hour drive from Sharjah, is the ideal jaunt for the whole family.

WHAT TO PACK

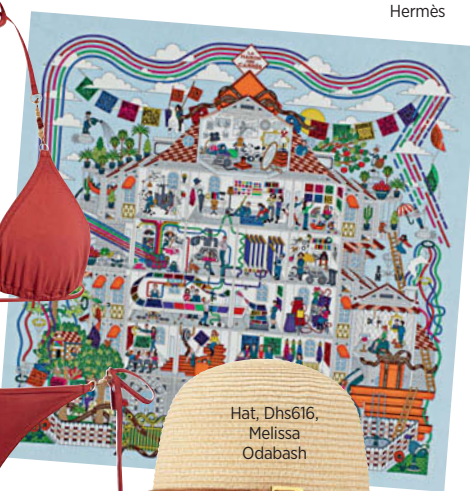
Designer threads to pack for an Oman driving journey



Scarf, Dhs1,950, Hermès



Bag, Dhs9,160, Chloé



Hat, Dhs616, Melissa Odabash



Swimwear, Dhs1,075, Melissa Odabash



Espadrilles, Dhs2,140, Chanel

Weekend whirl O Monot Hotel, Beirut

JULIA MAILE *discovers a charming village atmosphere in the heart of bustling Beirut*

Every cosmopolitan city seems to have one; a neighbourhood with a village feel, where designers, artists and foodies congregate, offering an enviable mix of boutiques, pop-up restaurants and art installations all within an easy walk of each other. In London, it's Marylebone; despite being in the thick of the action, it still retains a cosy vibe with independent restaurants and shops such as Chiltern Firehouse and La Fromagerie drawing us back time and again. In Paris, we can lose hours strolling around Le Marais, exploring the area's many vintage boutiques and concept stores.

And as we discovered on our recent weekend jaunt to Lebanon, Beirut has such a neighbourhood of its own. Situated in the historic Ashrafieh, Saifi Village shares the same vibe as Marylebone and Le Marais, with design lovers and foodies staking claim to the pedestrianised alleys.

Eager to explore the area, we book into the city's hottest new boutique hotel, O Monot. Located a short five minute walk from the village on the distinctly French-flavoured Monot Street, the independent property opened in 2014 after being brought up-to-the-minute with a sensational renovation. The result is 41 superbly styled rooms and suites. Don't expect any over-the-top Middle Eastern bling here; instead of the usual swathes of marble, the look is chic and understated. The rooms are light and airy, with grey



and white furniture complemented by bold art work and mood lighting. The chic bathrooms feature a walk-in power shower and Jacuzzi separated from the bedroom by a glass wall with an electronic blind.

After devouring the welcome plate of macaroons and brownies we find in our room on arrival, we head up to the hotel's best kept secret; its rooftop. Featuring stunning views of the sea and Beirut skyline, it's home to a bar, private dining cabana and swimming pool. We spend a lazy couple of hours chilling poolside, before dining alfresco on a light lunch of poached salmon with asparagus from the short but sweet menu.

Then it's time for a stroll around the cobbled streets of Saifi Village. The Quartier des Arts is home to more than 50 boutiques and restaurants, and highlights include *Bazaar Interiors* cover star Nada Debs' furniture gallery and Oumnia concept store, which stocks hand-knotted carpets, delicate textiles and colourful vintage home accessories that owner Nivine Maktabi collects during her travels.

Rumbling stomachs take us to upscale Saifi restaurant Gilt, which is the latest creation from renowned restaurateur, Marwan Keyrouz. Designed by architect Issam Barhouch, the restored historic building has been given an elegant makeover including an impressive vintage chair installation dominating the foyer, and lighting by PSLAB. We perch at the bar and are instantly treated to the famed Lebanese hospitality, with local residents giving us tips on the hottest new nightlife spots. Offering a fusion of Mediterranean, Asian and Peruvian flavours, we dine on over-sized smoked salmon bilinis, sesame-crusted goats cheese medallions and Greek quinoa salad, all made with the freshest ingredients.

On the advice of our new Lebanese friends, we head to nearby Harry's Bar, where the newly-opened outpost of the legendary Venetian bar serves classic cocktails and a decadent Italian menu in lavish surrounds. Strolling back to O Monot later in the evening, we're impressed that despite its bijoux size, Saifi Village certainly packs a powerful punch. *From Dhs1,650 per night; Omonot.com*



From the top: guest room at O Monot hotel; the rooftop pool; salmon bilini, quinoa salad and goats cheese medallion at Gilt; the interior of Gilt

**GO BANANAS**

Getting to Banana Island Resort is an adventure in itself, with the option to take a luxury ferry or 10 minute helicopter ride. Recently opened in Doha, the latest resort from Anantara redefines luxury vacationing. The crescent-shaped island forms a long stretch of private beach, which is perfect for water-sport enthusiasts and families alike. The resort's dive centre offers fishing trips, wakeboarding and yacht cruises, while for those who prefer things on the drier side, there's a nine-hole golf course, bowling alley and theatre. But what truly sets the resort apart is the Balance Wellness Centre. Boasting a botanical garden, oxygen fern room, and female-only hydro pool, it's the only facility of its kind in the Middle East.

Anantara.com

ESCAPE

Travel ideas for dreamy destinations

NEWS

FITSPIRATION

If you're in need of some motivation to get in shape pre-holiday, log on to newly launched Dubai-based website Sand and Smoke. Former *Harper's Bazaar Arabia* fashion and beauty director Sally Mathews has teamed up with luxury fashion marketing exec Ruthie Fischer to create the go-to guide for the latest high fashion active wear, fitness trends and healthy recipes. Sandandsmoke.com



Bazaar loves...

Roundie Towel, Dhs365,
The Beach People

***JET SET...** While we never need an excuse to fly to Milan, Salone del Mobile gives us one more reason to pay a visit to the fashion and design capital this spring. Taking place from April 14-19, the furniture fair's 54th edition will showcase the latest products from design companies around the world. Also taking place is Euroluce, the biennial exhibition devoted to lighting, which coincides with UNESCO's International Year of Light. Salonemilano.it*

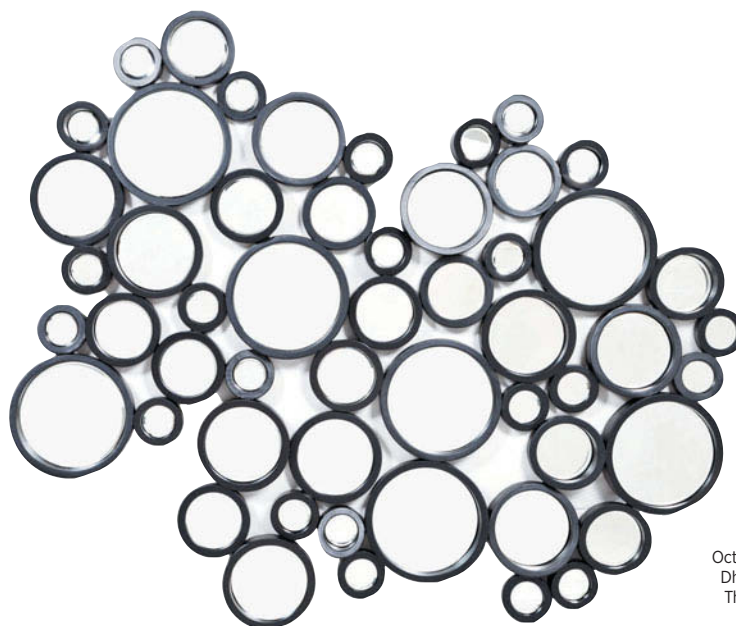
Harper's BAZAAR WHERE TO BUY

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*Owner and creative director of
Cities concept store, HAZEM ALJESR,
on design that breaks the rules*

MY DESIGN DNA

I am constantly inspired by small moments of unexpected beauty and the energy I find in the people and places around me. People in the art and design world are so passionate about what they do, and I find that passion to be contagious and inspirational. **I am most proud of** my family and friends and the love we all have for one another, combined with the positive energy we all create and share in the lives we live. I have constructed a life for myself that allows me to share my inspiration with the people around me. To be able to inspire others in the appreciation of beauty is a powerful thing. **The most important aspect of my job** is ensuring that customers are happy with their experience in our store. In order to do that we work hard to keep up with the constantly changing world of art and design, and make sure that our store is a reflection of the new influences and items on the market. **My design hero is** any designer who is able to combine passion, vision and good craftsmanship into one perfect piece. Some of my favourite designers include Nada Debs, Christopher Duffy, Boca do Lobo, Tom Dixon and Alma de Luce. **I love the pure elegance** of a simple yet sophisticated space with lighting that completes the atmosphere. Lighting is an aspect of décor

that is often overlooked, but the right lighting can really make a space coherent. **My home is** my sanctuary. It is the space where I am the most comfortable and happy, surrounded by all of the things I love. I collect a lot of items in my travels, and display them in my home. So looking around my house, I can remember where I have been, and all of the amazing experiences I have been lucky enough to have. **My wardrobe is** a reflection of who I am and who I aspire to be. Like many people, my clothing is often representative of my personality and gives insight into who I am. I am a proponent of the idea that your clothing choices should reflect how you want to be perceived by others. **The best advice I can offer is** don't be afraid to break the rules. Innovations and original ideas come to us when we stop following everyone else and instead follow our own instincts and passions.

Creativity does not follow rules.

5



- 1. The Millennial Console by Maximo Riera;** the combination of nature and modern man-made materials results in a visually interesting and complex piece.
- 2. Floating Stool by Nada Debs;** her work has become the standard, it's always perfect. Her creations mesh with any style and space.
- 3. Skateboard deck art by Fotis Gerakis;** he is such a versatile artist and I love his use of colour. It's an unusual medium for art and makes a great display.
- 4. Woven lamps by Nayef Francis;** watching him develop as an artist is fascinating. All of his pieces are distinct and made with thought.
- 5. Red Jeans sculpture by Richard Orlinski;** There is no better statement-making piece








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